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The night La Scala booted Pavarotti

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## SCHOOLS

How to get more girls to the top

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## VARSITY MATCH

19-11: Cambridge in shock triumph

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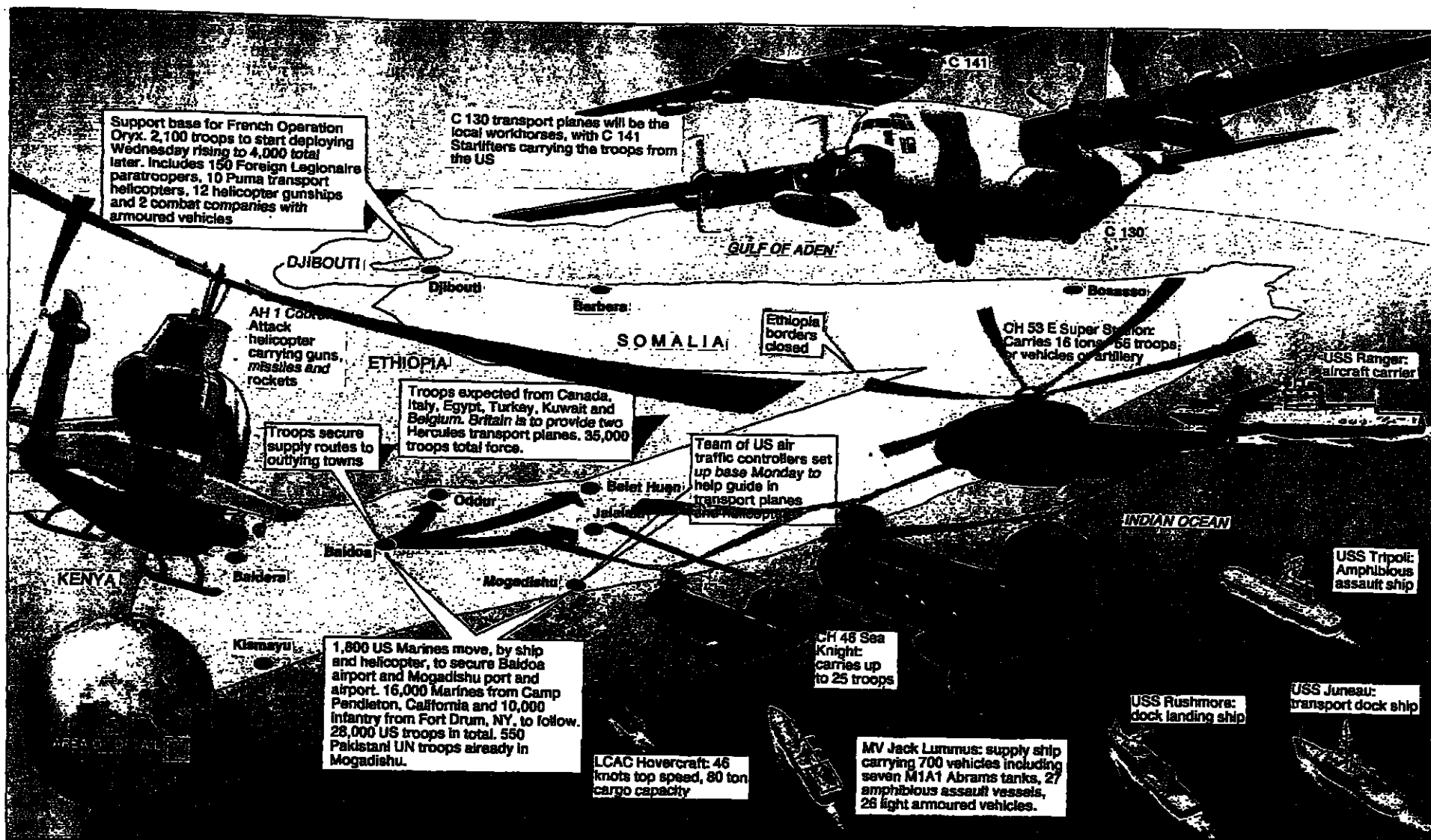
# THE TIMES

No. 64,511

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9 1992

45p

## US marines sweep in before dawn to bring relief to Somalia



## Serb onslaught cuts Sarajevo off from the outside world

By Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent

A FIERCE battle that may well determine the fate of Sarajevo was raging last night, with Serbian rocket shells crashing into several suburbs and cutting off the Bosnian capital from the outside world.

### Flag banned

British troops have been barred by the United Nations from flying large Union Jacks on their vehicles in Bosnia. Small versions will still be allowed.

## British temples attacked

By Michael Horsnell

APPEALS for calm among Britain's Hindus and Muslims were made by police, community and religious leaders last night after four Hindu temples were attacked by arsonists.

As the violence which has killed more than 350 in India spilled into Britain, the Shree Krishna temple in West Bromwich, near Birmingham, was destroyed in the worst of a swathe of destruction in the north and the Midlands. A temple official said: "This was an act of sheer barbarism. But we are peaceful people and we are not looking for revenge."

Chief Supt Brian Quilter, of West Midlands police, urged guardians of temples and mosques to be vigilant and said his officers had orders to give extra protection to such buildings. He said: "I appeal to all residents to remain calm."

Ahmed Ali, secretary of the Sandwell Pakistan Muslim Association, said: "I hope we have not caused this fire and I would advise all of our community not to do anything in this country because we must live together."

Damage in the three other petrol-bomb attacks, in Birmingham, Coventry, and Bolton, was less severe.

Restoring ties, page 2  
Hindu strike call, page 12

## Mission of hope defies warlords

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON AND  
SAM KIRBY IN BAIDOA

WASHINGTON yesterday authorised a vanguard of 1,800 heavily armed marines to sweep into the Somalia capital of Mogadishu before dawn today in a show of force designed to intimidate potential opposition.

The marines' arrival by helicopter and amphibious vessels from offshore warships marks the start of the world's largest armed relief mission. It is the first time that American troops have entered an uninvited country where no US strategic interests were at stake.

The vanguard, authorised by Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, was not the only jarring juxtaposition of the first and third worlds. American television networks, exploiting an eight-hour time difference, sent their top anchors to Mogadishu to broadcast the action live.

Robert Oakley, President Bush's special envoy, earlier told Somalia's two principal warlords of the marines' plans. He stressed that Operation Restore Hope's aim was to prevent mass starvation, not to impose a political settlement. But any gunmen found

### Two thousand US marines in Somalia are welcomed as saviours by the Somalis. American support could erode if the troops become bogged down.

near the landings at Mogadishu port and airport would be treated as hostile, he said.

Mr Oakley, interviewed on American television, said that President Ali Mahdi Muhammad and his rival, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, had promised co-operation and were broadcasting that message on their radio stations. But the two warlords had said they did not have complete control and that some gunmen might provoke confrontations.

The marines' first task was to secure Mogadishu's port and airport and the airfield at Baidoa, the largest city in southern Somalia's interior, where at least 48 people were killed in factional fighting on Monday. Yesterday American jets flew reconnaissance missions over Baidoa as its streets teemed with jeeps full of heavily armed teenage bandits. The American intervention could not come soon enough for the few aid work-

France said yesterday that some of its troops would fly to Mogadishu from their Djibouti Red Sea base today and that the full 2,100 contingent would be in place by Christmas. The Russian foreign ministry said that it might send troops.

The US-led operation will require huge logistical support — for example, feeding the soldiers who will save the starving — in the most adverse circumstances. Everything required to support the troops must be shipped in. Mogadishu's port can handle only one supply ship at a time and its airport can take only one giant C-5 transport plane or three smaller C-141s.

Four supply ships had arrived off Mogadishu last night. These floating warehouses carried tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and enough fuel, food and water to supply the marines for a month.

A CBS poll yesterday indicated that 72 per cent of Americans supported Operation Restore Hope, with only 16 per cent against. That support could quickly erode if US troops suffer losses or become bogged down.

Moral certainties, page 13  
Leading article, page 17

## Wedding doubts for Queen Mother

By Alan Hamerton

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother remains undecided over whether to attend the wedding in Scotland on Saturday of her granddaughter, the Princess Royal, Clarence House said yesterday. Her hesitation has been widely interpreted as a gesture of disapproval at the recent divorce and subsequent remarriage of the Queen's only daughter.

Staff at Clarence House, the Queen Mother's London residence, declined to confirm that her apparent reluctance to attend was a moral issue.



The Queen Mother with war veterans yesterday

But their insistence two days ago that the Queen Mother, aged 92, was in good health left morality the only avenue for speculation.

Lucy Murphy, her official spokeswoman, said yesterday that any question of taking a moral stance was "a very personal matter between Queen Elizabeth and her conscience".

When it first became known that the Queen Mother was unlikely to attend, Clarence House said she had no plans to visit Scotland this weekend, adding that she had a number of private engagements and did not wish to disappoint those who were expecting to meet her. By yesterday, a flat denial of any plans to travel north had become an admission of indecision, leaving the door ajar.

Continued on page 3, col 8  
History's scars, page 3  
Divorce and church, page 16

## Fresh Danish demands deal further blow to EC summit

By Philip Webster and George Brock

JOHN Major's hopes of success at the Edinburgh summit were dealt another blow last night after Denmark demanded new concessions to help it to ratify the Maastricht treaty.

The prime minister acknowledged openly that the summit might fail to solve the Danish problem, and British officials later spoke of the possibility of it having to be resolved by the Danish presidency of the EC when it takes over from Britain in January. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said after a two-day "conclave" of EC foreign ministers in Brussels that the Edinburgh summit was balanced on a "razor's edge".

The mood of pessimism deepened in Whitehall after Denmark tabled new propos-

als towards the end of yesterday's session of foreign ministers in Brussels that sought additional safeguards, particularly on defence, before Copenhagen would seek a second referendum on Maastricht next year. Britain's compromise proposals had already been criticised for going too far and endangering the whole essence of the Maastricht blueprint.

The atmosphere of crisis intensified with the news that President Mitterrand is to arrive early in Edinburgh tomorrow evening for talks with Mr Major. Until yesterday Downing Street officials had maintained there would be no pre-summit discussions with the French president. Mitterrand will be a valuable ally for Mr Major as he

grapples with the issue of future financing of the EC. Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said yesterday that he had doubts about Britain's proposal that the Community should ensure Denmark's opt-outs in a legally binding "decision" and suggested a lesser declaration would be preferable.

Mr Major has called senior ministers to Downing Street this morning. Speaking in the Commons for the last time before the summit, he confirmed that he is hoping to win agreement at Edinburgh for a package of measures to tackle the recession across Europe.

EC fudge, page 9  
Clash avoided, page 10  
Simon Jenkins, page 14  
Sir Leon Brittan, page 21

## BP cuts 14p off petrol

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BP IS cutting the price of its petrol by nearly 14p a gallon (3p a litre) from tonight. Wed. Other oil companies are expected to follow suit in what is likely to be one of the most ferocious rounds of price-cutting the industry has seen.

Though other petrol producers would yesterday/TUES say only that they were considering their prices in the wake of BP Oil's cuts, industry analysts expect that they will have little choice in a highly competitive market but to cut their own prices in line with BP.

As well as its immediate impact on the price of motoring, cheaper petrol could be a considerable boost to the economy as it struggles to move out of recession. Petrol prices are a Continued on page 2, col 5

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Family history scarred by divorce has caused a surfeit of dismay and sadness for its matriarch

## Queen Mother's faith may keep her from princess's remarriage

BY ALAN HAMILTON

DIVORCE has been a devil lurking at the shoulder of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother for much of her life. But her apparent reluctance to attend her granddaughter's wedding on Saturday can be explained by her staunchly Christian views, formed in childhood.

Philip Ziegler, the historian and biographer of Edward VIII, said yesterday he was not surprised at the Queen Mother's apparent unwillingness to attend Saturday's wedding. "She has held these very strong views about divorce since her childhood, when she formed her strong attachment to traditional Christian values. Her view is once married, always married. The abdication crisis illustrated those strong feelings rather than formed them."

The Queen Mother was born into a large, secure, Christian family in an age when divorce was a rarity and usually a scandal. In common

with so many humbler families, she lost siblings in the first world war. When she married Bertie, second son of George V, in 1923, she had every expectation of a comfortable but quiet life as the Duchess of York, far removed from the trials, snarls and unbearable stresses of monarchy.

All that changed with the arrival in London society of Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American who captivated the heart and mind of the Prince of Wales and forced his abdication after less than a year's reign as Edward VIII. Neither church nor state would countenance the marriage of the monarch to one so tainted.

The abdication precipitated what Elizabeth most dreaded: the unwilling propulsion of her husband, Edward's younger brother, to the throne as George VI. Bertie was a shy stammerer, a good man ill-equipped for the throne. The

Yorks steeled themselves to accept the duty they least desired. Elizabeth told the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, Cosmo Gordon Lang: "I can hardly now believe that we have been called to this tremendous task, and the curious thing is that we are not afraid. I feel that God has enabled us to face the situation calmly."

In the fires of the second world war that engulfed the nation three and half years into his reign, George VI was tempered and moulded to greatness, the leader beloved by his people for his quiet, unwavering courage. But the strain killed him. A heavy cigarette smoker, he died of lung cancer in 1952 at the age of 56.

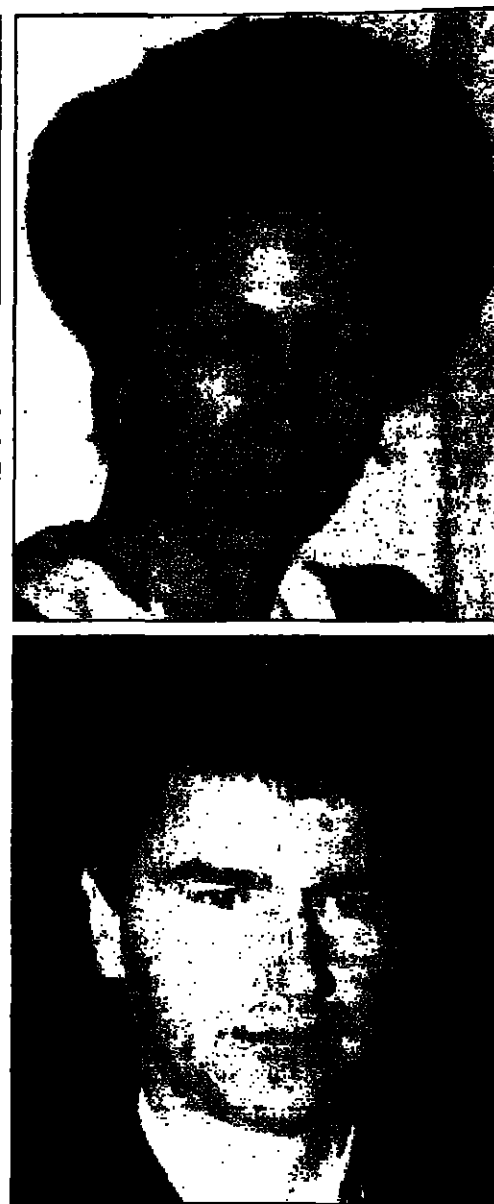
Elizabeth always blamed the American divorcee as the instigator of her husband's premature death. Without her the Yorks would have enjoyed a less stressful and a much longer life together. Yet in one of her rare pronouncements on the matter, Elizabeth once said of Mrs Simpson: "I didn't hate her; I just felt sorry for her by the end."

The Duchess of Windsor formed a different impression. Writing to a friend in 1936 of her first meeting with Elizabeth, when the Prince of Wales arrived in a swanky new American station wagon to introduce his new lady friend to the Yorks, she observed somewhat sourly: "I think she [Elizabeth] was more impressed by the station wagon than by his other American acquisition."

Divorce was to raise its head again in the 1950s, when her younger daughter fell deeply in love with Group Captain Peter Townsend, an equestrian and a divorcee. As in the case of Edward and Mrs



Defender of the faith: strong Christian belief underpinned by unhappiness caused by broken marriage vows are said to be why the Queen Mother will miss the Princess Royal's wedding to Tim Laurence, above



## No decision to attend ceremony

Continued from page 1 for a last-minute change of heart. The Queen Mother, who was married for 29 years and has been widowed for 40, is known to have strong views on divorce. Never since the days of Henry VIII has anyone so close to the throne divorced and remarried, although George IV made an ill-starred attempt to do so.

Yesterday, the Queen Mother attended a luncheon function at Guildhall in the City of London, meeting former prisoners of war from the Far East campaign. However, she gave no hint of her feelings. Her granddaughter was also about some earnest official business, attending a sub-committee meeting of the Loriners' Company, of which she is master, to discuss the introduction of a British standard for plastic saddle trees. Plastic is rapidly replacing the traditional laminated birch on which saddles are fashioned.

Later, Princess Anne went to the Institution of Civil Engineers to talk to engineers working on disaster relief in Kenya. On neither occasion did she acknowledge the large media gathering hoping for a smile or comment, but those she talked to at her two meetings reported that she appeared delighted at the prospect of her forthcoming marriage.

Details of the wedding ceremony remain scant, a reflection of the fact that the Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence still cling to the faint hope that it will be a private affair. Crapian police yesterday did their best to discourage the large crowd of media and public, expected to besiege Crathie Church. They said snow was forecast for the weekend and that driving conditions on the narrow Highland roads could be difficult. After the 50-minute ceremony the couple will enjoy a private family reception at Balmoral.



Family values: King George IV and his queen, who believed family divorce hastened his death

## Duchess is moved to a home

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE widow of one of Britain's greatest landowners has been moved from her elegant Westminster house to a single room in an old people's home.

Clare, Duchess of Sutherland, for half a century an undisputed star in London society, is now at the age of 90 a resident at the Meadbank Nursing Home in Battersea, south London, which she shares with 80 other elderly people.

Her new surroundings contrast with the grandeur of Dunrobin Castle, the historic home of her late husband, the fifth duke, who died in 1963. The Duchess's son by her second marriage, Michael Dunkerly, is expected to move into the Westminster house with his wife, who yesterday denied that her mother-in-law had been treated badly.

Rooms at Meadbank cost £430 a week and social security pays the cost of keeping some of the residents. The duchess has her own room, with bathroom and telephone. Her principal pleasure is said to be an expensive piano bought for her by her son, on which she plays a wide range of music.

## Treasury to cover Ulster bomb costs

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE government is expected to face renewed pressure from insurance companies to underwrite the cost of IRA mainland bombings following disclosures yesterday that central government funding would be available for compensation in Ulster.

Announcing the Northern Ireland budget for 1993-4, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, said he had recently concluded an agreement with the Treasury. This would make central government funding available for the first time for compensation payments above a set ceiling each year, to reduce the effects on the province's economy of IRA bombings.

Sir Patrick would not reveal the level of the ceiling but said: "Fortunately I don't have now to reckon that there is an open-ended liability. I have an insurance policy with the Treasury."

Previously, the Northern Ireland Office has made provision for compensation for bomb damage from its own budget. In particular, bad years, spending on roads, construction and other areas has been cut back to help meet compensation bills. Economic

mists estimated that the agreed ceiling would be between £50 million and £65 million, leaving the Treasury to foot the bill above that level. This year, claims are expected to total about £70 million after a series of big explosions in Belfast and other towns.

As part of the new deal, the Treasury is thought to have agreed to assist the NIO in making up the difference between its estimate for damage of £37 million and the final total.

Insurance industry leaders believe the new arrangement will assist their attempt to have the government underwrite the cost of bombings on the mainland.

Mike Jones, chief executive of the Association of British Insurers, said the government would now find it harder to justify not coming to the assistance of insurance firms. In Belfast Dr Graham Guddeon, of the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre, said it was clear the government had weakened its position so far as insurance cover in Britain was concerned. "The government has just shouldered more of the burden in Belfast but in Britain it is refusing to take any of it."

## Thieves did not single out Beckett

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE youths who forced their way into the home of Margaret Beckett, the deputy Labour leader, demanding money at knifepoint, had not targeted her specifically, police said yesterday. A similar "bargain" robbery had been carried out only a few streets away from Mrs Beckett's home in Derby four weeks earlier.

Three youths were involved in both attacks. A description of one from the first incident fitted that of one of the intruders at the Beckett house on Sunday evening. "It was an opportunist crime," Det Chief Inspector Peter Hall said. "The house was convenient: it's close to a pub and not far from the main road."

Mrs Beckett and her husband, Leo, live in a semi-detached Victorian house in Normanton, south Derby. It is in a quiet side street less than 100 yards from a ring road. The only hint of its owners' Labour connections are two stained-glass red roses set in the double glazing of the front door.

The Becketts were not at home last night. Mrs Beckett had cancelled all her political engagements for the day.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES SEND THEIR MESSAGE OF GREEK MACEDONIA

It is true that when ordinary people refer to Greek antiquity, they usually have in mind ancient cities that had played an important role in the growth of civilization from prehistoric up to the classical period. Among them, Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Sparta, Olympia and other city-states of the southern part of Greece, the Aegean islands, Crete, Cyprus, west Asia Minor and even south of Italy, the very well known "Magna Graecia" are among the prevailing ones. On the contrary Macedonia's history comes into existence since the glorious reign of King Philip, his son Alexander the Great, and his generals who ruled over the remains of the late Persian empire, creating the very well known and so important Greek centers of civilization of Alexandria, Pergamos, Antioch of Mesopotamia. Nevertheless, Macedonia's previous history remains quite obscure to common people.

However, archaeological excavations during the last twenty years brought to light hundreds of ancient Greek cities, temples, palaces, theaters and tombs, one of which is the famous tomb of King Philip, and treasures of an exquisite workmanship and design. Chronologically, they cover the most important periods of the Greek history from the Mycenaean up to the classical times. Their number increases in such a manner, that in the years to come, they will very probably exceed those of the southern part of the country, which was wrongly considered to constitute the main body of Greek antiquity. Therefore, when talking of ancient Greece, one must have in mind its northern part as well, i.e. Macedonia.

### The bronze crater of Derveni

Amongst the most important finds are the bronze crater and several other bronze vases with an attractive golden appearance. They were discovered near Thessaloniki, capital of Macedonia in 1969. They are ascribed to the 4th century B.C., a period during which metal working technique in Greece had reached an amazingly high standard of perfection.

The large crater, a unique masterpiece of ancient Greek art and technology, has a 90 cm height, and an approximate mass of 40 kg. The base, the four stamettes, which lie on the crater's shoulder, and the two heavy handles are cast, while the whole main body with the fine relief decorations is forged.



Its golden colour, which led archaeologists to believe that it was gold plated, is due to an unusual high tin content (15%). It is surprising how ancient Greeks had shaped the hard copper-tin alloy into such a large vase and, what is more, they had decorated its main body with high relief decorations.

On the other hand, X-ray investigation led to the unexpected conclusion that this huge crater was from bottom to the middle of its neck a one piece vase. At this point exists the sole welding zone between the main body and the upper part of the crater. Just above the welding point some small size wild animals seem to walk on an irregular ground. In this way, the artist has actually succeeded in hiding the rather rough welding.

Macro and micro examination and experimental work showed that the crater would have been produced by forging, while the smaller bronze vases either by forging, or on the lathe or, finally by a

combination of both. In fact, some of the small vases show signs of spinning on the lathe.

The above study has largely contributed in assessing the achievements realized by ancient Greeks in Macedonia during the 4th century B.C., and has led to the conclusion that throughout this period Greek art and technology had actually reached a climax of perfection and, what is more, Macedonia the new Greek super power that had succeeded Athens after its decline constituted part of the ancient Greek world and a continuation of its civilization.

Prof. Dr. George J. Varoufakis  
Head of the Research and Quality Control Department  
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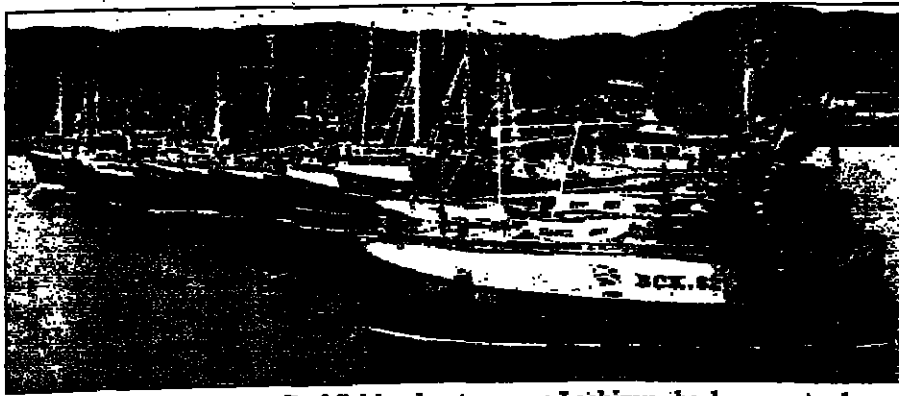
## Scottish skippers blockade harbour

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH fishermen, angry at having to watch foreign vessels land fish they themselves are not allowed to catch, yesterday blockaded the Highland harbour of Lochinver.

Fifteen boats which took up station on Monday night were still lashed together across the harbour entrance yesterday. One French trawler, which landed its catch on Monday, was trapped in the harbour and eight smaller French vessels were outside unable to enter.

Captain Alexander Campbell, Lochinver harbourmaster, said: "It is a delicate situation. The skippers will not tell us when they will lift the blockade. The harbour authorities are taking a relaxed view hoping the protest will play itself out." The fishermen are angry because



On ne passe pas: a wall of fishing boats across Lochinver harbour yesterday

they have exhausted their catch quotas which are fixed each year by EC fisheries ministers. The French still have left some of the quota they are allocated off north-west Scotland.

Sir Hector Monro, Scottish fisheries minister, said he was disappointed at a relaxed view of the Scottish fishermen's action since the French were not doing anything illegal. He

urged them to show patience until later this month when much-enhanced catch quotas were likely to be agreed.

Robert MacLennan, Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness and Sutherland, said the protest was an explosion of justifiable anger. "The sight of our fishermen being required to dump precious stocks of haddock

at sea while their French counterparts freely land their loads is intolerable."

The blockade - which is not publicly supported by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation - reflects widespread discontent among British fishermen who are planning street protests in Edinburgh on Friday to coincide with the first day of the EC summit.

Widower threatens to sue private clinic

## Accident verdict in keyhole surgery case

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE WIDOWER of a financial director who died after a bungled operation at a private hospital said last night he would take civil action after a coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Ruth Silverman, 49, died after her intestine was mistakenly sliced during keyhole surgery by two doctors who had never performed the operation before, St Pancras coroners' court was told. She later died from blood poisoning.

The inquest was told that Mrs Silverman, of Hampstead, north London, died because she failed to receive emergency antibiotic treatment when four doctors at the Harley Street Clinic could not agree who was responsible for her treatment.

After the hearing Michael Silverman, a business consultant, said the coroner, Dr Douglas Chambers, had promised to inform the chief medical officer and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists about the case.

"I will also be making submissions to Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary," said Mr Silverman.

It has become quite evident that you are not safe in the private sector. There will be a civil action. I will take this as far as it can go."

A consultant told the inquest yesterday that he had been horrified by the delay and wished the patient had been in a National Health Service hospital because it would have provided better care.

Dr Raja Jayaweera, a consultant anaesthetist at Whittington Hospital in Highgate, north London, had anaesthetised Mrs Silverman for the operation to remove a bowel obstruction and was one of several consultants looking after her.

Two days after the operation Mrs Silverman was transferred from the Portland Hospital in central London to the clinic because her condition had deteriorated seriously.

Dr Jayaweera said he was contacted by the clinic and was told Mrs Silverman was suffering from complaints which indicated blood poisoning. But in the 2am telephone call he did not recommend anti-

otics, which can increase the patient's chances of survival.

He said: "The question was not put to me, nor at that time did I think there was a need for it." But he admitted he was horrified to discover the next morning that the patient had not been given antibiotics.

He said he wished Mrs Silverman had been put into NHS care because of deficiencies in the intensive care unit at the Harley Street Clinic. It was his advice at this time that the patient should go into an NHS unit, but Mr Silverman rejected his advice.

Dr Rodney Armstrong, director of the intensive care unit at University College Hospital, said Mrs Silverman was transferred to the unit from the Harley Street Clinic, but died of a brain haemorrhage caused by blood poisoning due to a perforation in the abdomen. It was alleged at an earlier hearing that the intestine had been cut during the keyhole operation.

Dr Armstrong said Mrs Silverman would have been better off in an NHS unit than at the Harley Street unit.



Chill wind: children model donations to Oxfam

## Oxfam asks for first aid for Europe

By KATE ALDERSON

FOR the first time since the second world war, Oxfam is launching an appeal for money and clothing for people in Europe.

Oxfam predicts that almost seven million people could die from cold and hunger in European, Middle Eastern and Asian countries this winter, and is appealing for £5 million and warm clothing for the people of Albania, the former Yugoslavia, northern Iraq and Afghanistan.

David Jones, associate director of Oxfam, said the "Cold Front Appeal" had been launched because "there are people who are facing a new Cold war". He said it was a very sad reflection of recent history that Oxfam was appealing for help for people in Europe.

"Oxfam is doing its bit," Mr Jones said. "But it is the international community that has to act to get aid to these people who are going to suffer this winter."

Suzanne Charlton, BBC weather forecaster, said at the appeal launch that some people would be facing temperatures of -25C without shelter or heating.

## Lost jobs and high claims push up ski insurance by 20%

■ Deep snow on the pistes has boosted hopes of a good season, but accident-prone skiers will have to pay more this year

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading for the mountains when the ski season begins on Saturday face increases of up to 20 per cent in accident insurance premiums.

Poor snow last year led to 45,000 claims, almost half of them for medical expenses after accidents. This year, despite snow conditions that are the best for years, insurance companies have raised their premiums to cover last year's losses.

David Hearn, of the Ski Club of Great Britain, said: "Good snow always means fewer accidents. Rocks are covered and there is not the same concentration of people in small areas, chasing what snow there is."

Insurance companies say they have had to raise premiums this year because, apart from medical expenses, they had to meet a large number of claims for holidays cancelled by people who had lost their jobs.

A spokesman for General Accident said: "The recession, and poor snow which caused more accidents, meant that our average claim last year was £253. We have therefore had to increase premiums by around 15 per cent."

The company says that 35 in every 1,000 of the 600,000 British skiers who head for the mountains are involved in an accident. Skiing accidents account for 77 per cent of medical expenses claims and 36 per cent of these are

fractures, 43 per cent ligament damage and 9 per cent head injuries. Almost a third of the accident victims need an extra seat on the aircraft home because of leg injuries, although only one in every 1,000 skiers ends up in a plaster cast.

Premiums range from about £40 for a fortnight in Austria to £100 for a fortnight in America. Of the 600,000 skiers from Britain about 400,000 take a package holiday and the rest make their own arrangements.

The average week spent skiing in the Alps on a package tour run by the market leader Thomson would cost about £350 with another £100 for lift passes and resort costs. Tour operators are hoping that the deep snow that has already fallen will continue and encourage late bookers.

Mr Hearn said: "It has certainly started extremely well. There is now a very large amount of snow at high altitudes, with more than three metres at more than 3,000ft and plenty of snow even on the lower slopes." "Our main concern at the moment, however, is avalanche. We have been warned that there is now extreme danger, especially off-piste and on southeast-facing slopes, because the snow has been whipped into overhangs by high winds."

Leading article, page 17

## New libel right 'would curb press'

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

FREEDOM of political expression and of the press would be undermined if local authorities were allowed to sue for libel, the law lords were told yesterday.

Local councils and government bodies could stop criticism of their actions if an appeal court judgment banning them from bringing libel actions were overturned, Anthony Lester QC, for Times Newspapers, said.

"Government bodies would be able to wield the very sharp sword of libel proceedings to deter or suppress criticism and information about what they do as the people's representatives and public servants," he told an appellate committee of the House of Lords.

Derbyshire County Council is contesting an appeal court judgment that local authorities and government departments do not have the right to protect their reputations by suing for libel. The case arises from articles in *The Sunday Times* criticising the council's pension fund dealings.

Charles Grey QC, for the county council, said that if a local authority could not defend its reputation, it would have difficulty borrowing money, attracting investment and jobs to its area and retaining public confidence. The hearing continues today.

## Fish farm accused of negligence

By MICHAEL HORNER  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

A FISH farm was accused in court yesterday of failing to keep its ponds secure, allowing farmed rainbow trout to escape into a nearby river, plaguing anglers who had come to catch the more challenging brown trout.

In the first case of its kind, Savernake Fly Fishing Club in Wiltshire began by suing the owners of the farm, Gale and Ainslie Ltd, for loss of enjoyment and amenity. Judge Dyer, in Swindon Crown Court, decided that, in the first instance, he would consider only the issues of negligence and nuisance. The case was adjourned.

Peter Fox, a fisheries management consultant, told the court that the fish farm, at Mildenhall, Wiltshire, had been built in 1978. The concrete base of the ponds should have been renewed after ten years but only the sides had been replaced.

John Hounslow, the club's river keeper, said: "Everybody complained that they were catching small rainbows. They could not get near the brown trout. A lot were so frustrated they did not even bother to fish."

The farm has since gone out of business and is being leased by the Savernake club to rear brown trout.

## 1,000 innocents may plead guilty each year

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1,000 defendants plead guilty every year to offences that their lawyers believe they may not have committed, according to the preliminary findings of a survey for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

About 3,000 prosecutions are brought every year that are so weak that judges and barristers believe they should never have been mounted, according to figures released last night by Professor Michael Zander, a member of the commission.

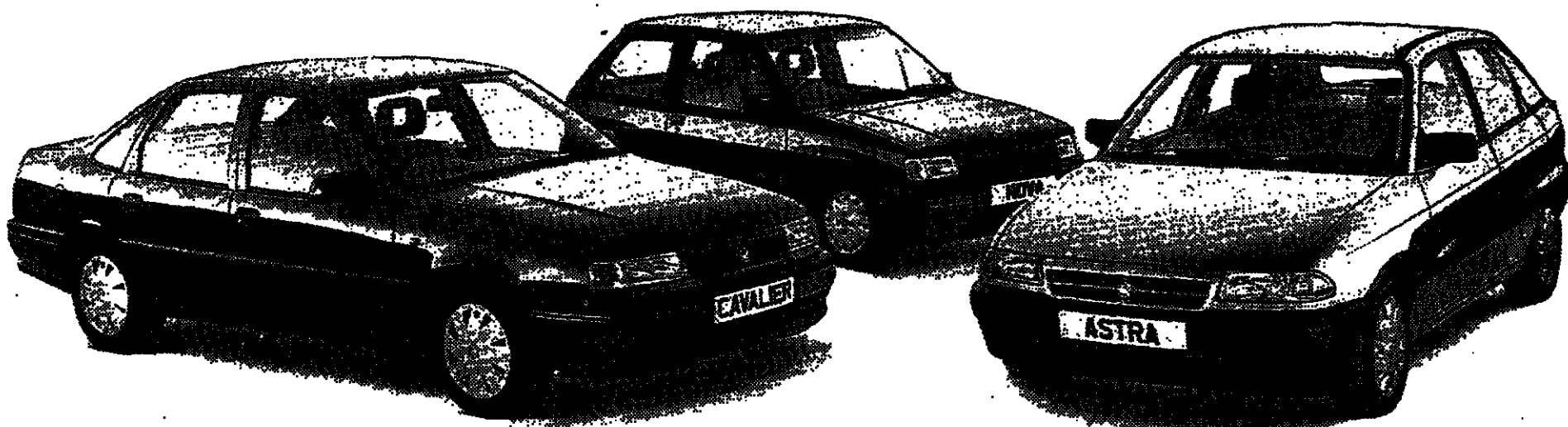
The survey of about 3,000 cases, the first to be undertaken of the Crown Court and all the participants in criminal proceedings, found overwhelming support for the jury system, the fairness of the judge and the performance of barristers and solicitors. But it found concern among defence barristers

that where a defendant pleaded guilty, this might be a case of an innocent person pleading guilty just to obtain the advantage of a sentence discount or a case of a defendant admitting to one charge but not others. "There were 53 cases in which the barrister said he had such a concern. This would mean over 1,000 such cases a year," Professor Zander said.

Judges and barristers also said that in 20 per cent of contested cases, the prosecution case was weak. Prosecution barristers said there were 89 cases in the sample, or about 2,000 a year, which should not have been brought.

Despite concern over possible wrong pleas, there was overwhelming support among judges and barristers for a formalised system of plea bargaining, with sentence discounts for guilty pleas.

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## Opposition mounts to emergency phone centralisation scheme

## New 999 plan will cost lives say operators

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

PROPOSED changes to the 999 emergency telephone service will put lives at risk, politicians, trade unionists and telephone operators said yesterday.

A national petition signed by 250,000 people was handed to Parliament urging ministers to reject centralisation of the emergency telephone system.

Ofsted, the telecommunications watchdog, has recommended that 999 services be taken away from the 57 British Telecom centres handling them at present, and given to a new agency operated from just three centres by 1995. At the moment 2,000 BT operators are available to take emergency calls but unions claim the new centres would have only 150 operators.

Ofsted said the service has to be taken away from BT because of the proliferation of rival telecommunications companies. It also claims that the new system will be more cost-effective. Nearly 23 million emergency calls are made each year and Ofsted predicts an increase to 24.5 million by 1995. The service costs £31 million a year to run.

Alan Johnson, general secretary of the Union of Com-

munication Workers (UCW), which represents telephone operators, said: "The changes will produce a worse service and fewer operators available to deal with emergency calls from fewer locations."

The union fears a situation similar to the collapse of the new computer system for London Ambulance Service last month, when unions claim up to 20 people died as a result. It believes that locating the service at three centres will make it vulnerable to power and machinery failure or sabotage. Mr Johnson said: "If a nationwide computer system crashed we would face a national disaster."

The suggested locations for the three new centres are Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, Newport, Gwent, and Motherwell, Strathclyde.

The union also said research had shown the reduction in staff would mean having to wait for emergency calls to be answered at busy times.

BT operators now handle both "100" and emergency calls, giving priority to the latter. Lynn Farren, a former operator from Dover, Kent,



Intensive care nurses prepare to lobby Parliament yesterday in protest at proposals to close several hospitals

said: "Taking emergency calls is immensely stressful. People are very frightened and confused and we have to calm them down." But she added: "It's rewarding and we don't want to lose that part of our work. We have given a good service."

Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, said the system could also suffer through the three centres not having wide geographical knowledge. "Local knowledge and pronunciation of places and names are often vital for a speedy and accurate response," he said.

The union is proposing an alternative new system, with the 999 service continuing to operate from the present centres and other telecommunications companies paying a percentage of the cost.

Ofsted said the proposals had to go through several working parties before they were finalised. John Major told the Commons yesterday that any new emergency system would need to "at least maintain and preferably improve the current high standards of response to calls".

## Bottomley cushions blow to hospitals

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON health services are to get a cash bonus next year to cushion the effects of a falling population and to implement the Tomlinson proposals to close or merge up to 15 London hospitals.

No decisions have yet been made, but Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, aware of potential industrial action from health workers and a possible backbench rebellion over further job cuts, is determined to make the changes as palatable as possible.

Announcing cash allocations for 14 English health regions yesterday, Mrs Bottomley said that all regions would get at least 0.4 per cent growth next year as their share of the £20.16 billion for hospital and community services announced in the Autumn Statement. Three London regions would have had cuts amounting to more than £50m if they had not been protected. Many inner London districts will face a substantial squeeze as regions channel money to the shire counties as part of a programme to build up services in outer London.

Mrs Bottomley has also

earmarked £2.66 billion for central initiatives such as Aids programmes, teaching costs and reducing junior doctors' hours.

Mrs Bottomley also announced that a further 121 units had expressed interest in becoming NHS trusts in April 1994. If all these went ahead, 95 per cent of all NHS hospitals and community units, 406 units, would have opted out of health authority control by 1994. "Trust status is clearly the management model. NHS Trusts are here to stay," said Mrs Bottomley.

## REVENUES

Regional Health Authority revenue allocations for resident populations in England 1993/4 (£m)	
Northern	1,160
Yorkshire	1,335
Trent	1,673
East Anglia	705
NW Thames	1,321
NE Thames	1,480
SE Thames	1,439
SW Thames	1,116
Wessex	1,034
Oxford	796
South West	1,186
West Midlands	1,855
Morsey	890
North West	1,506
England	17,503

Figures rounded

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Last English poly wins varsity status

England's last polytechnic yesterday won approval to become a university, as students and academics in Glasgow were voting the polytechnic title out of existence (John O'Leary writes).

The City of London Polytechnic is to become London Guildhall University in the spring. Only Glasgow Polytechnic has yet to assume the university status conferred six months ago by the Further and Higher Education Act. Staff and students will finish voting on four possible titles today, before the winner is submitted for approval.

The campus ballot will decide between Glasgow Metropolitan, Caledonian, St Mungo or Lomond University. Informal soundings have established that they are all acceptable to Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary.

## Man shot chess mate

A chess player tried to murder a rival who insisted that he should always win, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. Robert Bryan, 55, of Fulham, west London, admitted attempting to murder Matthew Hay, 22, by shooting him in the neck while he was asleep in Bryan's house. Mr Hay survived the attack. Bryan, who was jailed for ten years, told police: "I dreaded playing chess with him. I always had to lose. I had had enough." The court was told that Mr Hay considered it unforgivable if Bryan beat him.

## Order on earl's house

The Earl of Minto has been told by the heritage body Historic Scotland that he must make a proper attempt to save the remains of his family seat, Minto House in Roxburghshire, before he will be given consent to demolish the remaining third of the building. In August the ruined shell of the 16th and 18th-century house was made a category A building just after demolition men moved in and a row broke out when they pulled most of it down. Lord Minto will now examine options for restoration.

## Holiday-makers sue

The government is to be sued in the High Court in an effort to win compensation estimated at £10 million for up to 40,000 holiday-makers who lost money when the coach operator Land Travel collapsed. Solicitors representing creditors claim that the Department of Trade and Industry was "incompetent" in not acting earlier to close down the company when it knew it was in financial trouble. The company, based in Bath, Avon, was not bonded with the Association of British Travel Agents.

## The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



ARE critics greedy, or does reviewing make them peckish? "Books of the year" features raise this intriguing question.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead described a biography of G.M. Trevelyan as succulent. William Boyd found Philip Larkin's letters "a marvellous hors-d'oeuvre for the entrée of Andrew Motion's biography next year". Joanna Trollope "devoured" Victoria Glendinning's biography of Anthony Trollope. George Melly "gobbled down" Esther Freud's first novel and J.G. Ballard considered *Haunts of the Black Mass* by Charles Sprawson "a feast".

I suspect that the reason for all these food metaphors is that the reviewer

notices that he has 20 minutes until lunch, thinks to himself: "That gives me just enough time to jot down my books of the year", and just as he struggles to remember any book he has read his tummy begins to rumble.

"The incomparable dame's rich Christmas cake of a volume," wrote Alastair Forbes, somewhat cack-handedly, of Iris Murdoch's *Metaphysics as a Guide to Morals*. "Bringing with scents and flavours like a well-soused bouquet garni," wrote John Carey of Michele Roberts's *Daughters of the House*.

The sight of the sun coming over the yard-arm is also evident in many reviews. David Profumo's choice was, he wrote, "a book from which I intended to sip, but ended up draining in one long spellbound draught".

How nice to think of all these peckish critics finally having a really good tuck-in. But what do they say when Christmas lunch is served? "Mmmm ... as tasty as the new Iris Murdoch?"

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Without your help, hundreds of thousands could freeze to death in temperatures of -20°C. Without food, many more will face starvation.

This Appeal is for unwanted, warm jumpers

and overcoats. The sort we all have at the back of our wardrobes. If you take them to any Oxfam Shop they will be sent straight to where the need is greatest as the winter closes in.

But we also need money. Money to help supply crucial food aid, shelter, seeds and tools to the most vulnerable in the coming months.

Please, spare an old jumper for Oxfam this Christmas. It could help spare a life.

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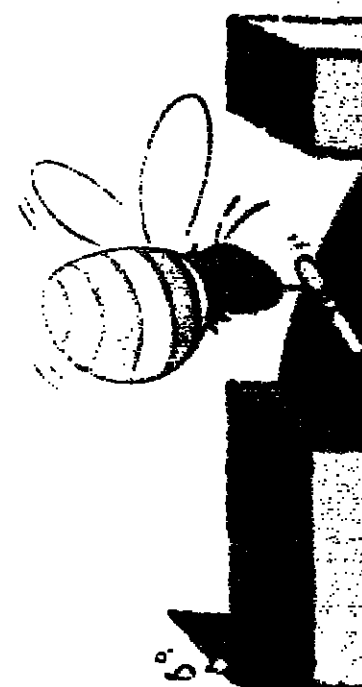
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By John

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## Chase across Europe to halt satellite porn channel

BY JOHN LEWIS

BRITAIN has asked three continental countries to help stop a pornographic satellite TV channel which is switching its earth transmitter to different locations in an attempt to avoid being closed down.

Programmes from the station, Red Hot Dutch, are scrambled and can be received in Britain with the use of a decoder sold for £129 by Continental Television, a company based in Manchester which claims it has no links with the broadcasters.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, first approached The Netherlands government when he received requests to try to stop the transmissions. Holland had been unaware of the channel's

existence and discovered the company was operating without a licence. When an application was made, the Dutch government turned it down and ministers believed the issue was dead until it was reported that programmes were still being received in Britain.

The national heritage department has also asked Denmark to refuse licences to Continental Television BV, the company understood to be responsible for the link-up that enables the programmes to be seen in 30,000 British homes.

The Danes, who are about to introduce a licensing system for commercial broadcasting, have not yet responded. France has also been contacted by officials and has said no request has been made to allow the transmissions.

A spokesman for Continental Television in Manchester said yesterday that the refusal by Holland had been on technical grounds. He would not say which country was now the base of the ground transmissions.

"We intend to move our up-link as and when we want. It may be in one country on Wednesday and another on Friday," he said. The channel showed only heterosexual and occasional lesbian scenes, he added.

The approaches to foreign authorities are being made as it becomes evident that government plans to stop pornography being beamed into Britain are failing at their first test. Lawyers are advising Mr Brooke that the government has to conform with the UK's obligations under the EEC broadcasting directive. This says there will be a breach of regulations only if it can be proved that there is a potential moral or physical danger to children and young people.

Red Hot Dutch is encrypted, broadcasts late at night and requires a decoder with a special pin number. British officials acknowledge that it will be argued that children are unlikely to see it.

Ted Childs, Central's controller of drama, said: "The scene was a crucial part of the story. It was not a particularly explicit sexual scene. There was no nudity whatsoever and the scene lasted a matter of seconds."



Say cheese: Chelsea pensioners give thanks for an early Christmas gift yesterday — 300lb of English and Welsh cheese from the National Dairy Council. A London cheesemonger started the tradition of donating cheese to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea in 1692, the year it opened

## Male smokers 'more prone to rheumatoid arthritis'

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

MEN who smoke are eight times more likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis, a study in Finland has shown.

The results are the clearest link yet between tobacco and arthritis, said Derrick Brewerton, a former professor of rheumatology at the University of London. Dr Brewerton, whose book *All About Arthritis* was published yesterday, also believes that air pollution may cause or aggravate the condition.

The Finnish study, due to be published soon in an American journal, followed more than 57,000 people who were first examined between 1966 and 1972 by the Social Insurance Institute and National Public Health Institute in Helsinki. They were examined again seven, 14 and 20 years later. The researchers found that former smokers were four times more likely to develop the disease than non-smokers, and smokers were eight times more likely. No comparable association was found for women.

■ Smoking, already implicated in lung cancer and heart disease, may be a cause of another disabling condition, research shows

"As there are 15 million men in the world with rheumatoid arthritis, we can say that without tobacco that could be reduced to two million," Dr Brewerton said.

The link with air pollution is not yet firmly established, although the first clear descriptions of the disease do not appear until around 1800, when the Industrial Revolution had begun to pollute the air, and there are studies showing that granite workers exposed to silica powder are more than twice as likely to develop the disease.

Dr Brewerton has concluded that there is not a single cause of the disease but rather a host of triggers, including genetic susceptibility, environmental factors such as pollution and smoking, stress, and diet.

The importance of diet was shown by a study last year in Norway, said Dr Brewerton, in which 26 sufferers of rheuma-

toid arthritis were put on a vegetarian diet and compared with an equal number on a normal diet. The improvement among those on the vegetarian diet was as much as had been achieved in any drug trial, he said.

A new treatment undergoing trials by a British specialist has produced dramatic results in curing a tropical disease that costs the lives of tens of thousands of people every year.

Robert Davidson of St Mary's Hospital Medical School has cured 32 patients suffering from visceral leishmaniasis, a parasitic infection

transmitted by sandflies, using a new formulation of an old drug. "The treatment is extremely effective and totally non-toxic," Dr Davidson said.

Leishmaniasis is endemic in much of the world, including parts of southern Europe. There are 400,000 new cases every year and it is increasingly resistant to existing drugs. Where there is poverty, its effects can be devastating. Dr Davidson estimated that 50,000 people have died of the disease in southern Sudan in the past year, ten per cent of the population.

Dr Davidson has been using a drug, amphotericin B,

which is known to kill the parasite responsible for the disease. In the past, serious side-effects including damage to the kidneys and blood cells have prevented the drug being used to its full effectiveness. But the new formulation, created by the American drug company Vistar, wraps the drug inside fatty particles known as liposomes, enabling it to kill the parasites without damaging healthy cells.

The first trial involved 32 patients, five of whom had a drug-resistant strain of the disease and nine of whom were carriers of the Aids virus, HIV, which makes the disease more dangerous. All were cured by one or two courses of injections with the drug, called AmBisome.

□ *All About Arthritis* (Harvard, £15.95)

## Recession takes toll on man's best friend

By LIN JENKINS

ANIMAL charities blame the recession for the increasing number of abandoned dogs that must be put down. Research published today predicts that 43,000 dogs will be destroyed this year by local authorities, which took over responsibility for stray dogs from the police under the Environmental Protection Act last April.

The National Canine Defence League, which conducted the research, said 250,000 stray dogs would be taken in by councils this year. Nearly 50 per cent will be reclaimed by their owners and 34 per cent found new homes or sent to rescue centres. The other 16 per cent will be put down.

The league has seen the number of dogs brought to its 13 rescue centres rise 7.4 per cent in a year. "We are having problems homing them because of the recession. People just cannot take on a dog if they do not know what their situation will be in a few months or years' time," said Ceris Price of the league.

The RSPCA put down 42,908 dogs last year compared with 40,879 the previous year. The number rehoused fell from 44,973 to 39,789.

Kathryn Donachie, RSPCA spokeswoman, said there was no accurate figure for the total number of unwanted dogs destroyed each year. But one estimate puts the figure as high as 1,000 a day. "The number being turned on to the streets is increasing as more people are made redundant, and with that the number of homes willing to take a stray is declining," she said.

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# MP demands more Labour magistrates to end Tory bias

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST magistrates in England and Wales are supporters of the Conservative party despite the Lord Chancellor's aim that local courts should reflect the political make-up of their community.

Figures showing political sympathies of magistrates were provided by the Lord Chancellor's Department at the request of Stephen Byers, the Labour MP for Wallasey and chairman of Labour's home affairs committee.

The study shows that in St Helens in Lancashire, where Labour took 60 per cent of votes cast in the general election, more than half the magistrates are Conservative supporters and only 26 per cent support Labour.

Yesterday Mr Byers said that the figures, given for 18 randomly chosen areas, showed the magistrates' benches were "simply stacked with Tories" and that the "magistracy fails to reflect the political support for parties in the communities they serve".

He said: "I was not surprised to find Conservative supporters dominating the bench. But what was really shocking was the extent of such dominance, and in areas which are Labour strongholds."

The figures are based on magistrates' replies to questionnaires they must complete when they apply for selection. They are asked what political party they usually support and the magistrates' court committees, which are responsible for choosing justices, try to ensure a representative political mix.

But the figures published today show that in Blackpool, for example, 61 per cent of magistrates are Conservative supporters, in Nottingham 62 per cent, in Southampton 71 per cent, in Norwich 61 per cent, in Leicester 65 per cent and in Bolton 57 per cent.

Mr Byers called for an urgent radical overhaul of selection procedures. The role of the magistrate should be "demystified", he said, and people should be told they do not need legal skills.

He also urged more extensive advertising of vacancies. "A small ad in the public notices section of a local paper is not enough," Paid time off should be given by employers (this is discretionary) and a national recruitment drive, which goes to factory shop floors, should be launched like the recent government campaign for more school governors, he said.

"If you want to restore public confidence in the legal system you need to have a more representative bench and take positive steps to achieve it."

The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday that the aim was always to try to ensure that a bench reflected the community it served. Advisory committees "made great efforts" to this end, but their efforts were governed by the people who actually put themselves forward.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has made particular efforts to bolster recruitment to the 28,000-strong magistracy.

The department's spokesman said Lord Mackay had repeatedly exhorted people from all walks of life to put themselves forward and in discussions with representatives from industry, he had sought to persuade employers to give paid time off. In a recession, employers were not always happy to do this.

Judges and recorders have been sent guidance on how to handle oath-taking by witnesses from ethnic minorities. The paper, *Oaths and Oath-Taking*, was prepared after courts requested advice.



The bluebells' toll: woods are being stripped of the plant to supply international collectors, and may take decades to recover

## Woodlands plundered to feed trade in rare bulbs

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH woodlands are being stripped of up to £2 million worth of bluebells and snowdrops a year to supply gardeners, the World Wide Fund for Nature said yesterday.

The action, which is illegal unless the landowner gives permission, is one example of the growing trade in wild plants, the fund said. Species such as tropical orchids and rare cacti are at risk of extinction from the trade. The fund launched a report yesterday to campaign for stricter controls.

Although the bluebell and

snowdrop are relatively plentiful, the present level of collection could severely damage woods, according to Martin Jenkins and Sara Oldfield, authors of the report, *Wild Plants in Trade*.



Rare beauty: *Ariocarpus agavoides*

"Commercial bluebell diggers can strip entire woods and the bluebell population may take decades to recover," the report comments. It says that the trade is much more extensive than first thought.

"In English law, wild plants are remarkably difficult to protect because they are traditionally regarded as the property of the landowner, whereas animals and birds are not," Mr Jenkins said. It is an offence to uproot any wild plant on private land, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, unless the landowner gives permission.

Paul Evans, the former conservation director of

Plantlife who carried out the bluebell enquiry, said that the retail value of a bluebell or snowdrop bulb was about 10p. "It's quite easy to put a fork in the ground of a wood, spend an afternoon digging



Sticky situation: the Venus fly-trap

a few thousand bulbs, and end up with several hundred pounds," he said.

In one of the few cases that has come to light recently, two men convicted of theft in August at Norwich Crown Court were found to have 6,000 bluebell bulbs. One was given a suspended prison sentence and the other a £25 fine, which Hugh Syngé, Plantlife's spokesman, said yesterday were "outrageously light sentences".

Popular plants such as the Venus fly-trap from North and South Carolina, and more exotic plants, such as the rare flowering cactus *Ariocarpus agavoides*, could be driven to extinction in the wild, Mr Jenkins said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Male nanny wins sex bias case

Charles Shiels, 50, of Liverpool, won a sex discrimination case after being turned down for a nursery nurse job. He applied through a JobCentre for a vacancy at the Tuebrook Tots Nursery in Liverpool but was told it had no toilet facilities for men.

Mr Shiels, a qualified nursery nurse, was awarded £600 compensation by an industrial tribunal. The nursery's management had claimed that Mr Shiels was too old for the job and that his sex was not relevant.

An Equal Opportunities Commission spokesman said: "This should be a clear signal to employers that stereotyped ideas of women's work and men's work could land them in court."

#### School closed

Tredegar Comprehensive school, Gwent, which was almost engulfed by a rain-soaked coal tip last week, will stay closed until engineers give the remaining sludge mountain the all-clear. Parents have refused to send their children back to school until they are sure it is safe.

#### Loo raided

A civil servant was held up at knifepoint by three masked men and robbed of jewels worth £9,000 when he stopped at a public toilet on his way to deposit the gems in a bank in Bedminster, Bristol.

#### Man sacked

Gary Whitham, manager of a Jolly Giant store in Lincoln, has been sacked after £1,300 was stolen, although he chased the thieves and recovered £900. The store is holding him responsible for leaving the office unlocked while meeting a delivery.

#### Boys expelled

Four 14-year-old boys from Millfield School in Street, Somerset, one of the country's most expensive public schools, have been expelled for taking drugs at a Christmas disco.

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## Labour's pro-Europe faction fights back

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

LABOUR'S leading Euro-enthusiasts are being urged to speak out in support of closer integration amid fears that the party's natural pro-European majority is being eroded by growing disenchantment with the Maastricht treaty and a desire to make life difficult for the government.

After weeks in which Labour's Euro-sceptics have dominated the floor at private meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party, with John Prescott and David Blunkett weighing in at shadow cabinet level, the pro-European faction has begun a counter-offensive in the run-up to the Edinburgh EC summit.

Stuart Holland, the former Labour MP and part-time adviser to Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, argued the economic case for Maastricht in a speech to the backbench Treasury committee on Monday night that was being hyped by the rafter by pro-European MPs yesterday.

The pro-Europeans admitted yesterday that they needed

more heavyweight figures to argue their corner. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, two of the standard-bearers of the Euro-friendly wing, are privately being encouraged to come to the rescue. They are pleased that Neil Kinnock, the former leader and architect of the changed Labour stance on Europe, has been appointed to a powerful new committee reviewing its European policy and charged with reporting to next year's conference.

They are worried because many of their allies, particularly on the left, are being drawn by the attractions of damaging the government. Their taste buds whetted by the near-defeat they inflicted on John Major last month on the Maastricht "paving" vote, they now wish to derail the whole enterprise. Others on the left who have been persuaded that the EC is the way of achieving their socialist ideals are growing increasingly doubtful about the Maastricht agenda.

Tony Banks, frontbench spokesman on London, who

confesses his devotion to a federal Europe, summed up their position. He told *The Times* yesterday: "Maastricht is not what Labour would have negotiated and is not what Labour should be prepared to accept. It is not just because of Britain's opt-out on the social chapter. The emphasis in the convergence criteria on price stability as opposed to social justice could lead to a cutback in welfare expenditure across Europe."

"My present view is that it would be better to go back and renegotiate a better deal. I would favour voting against the third reading, especially if in so doing we precipitate an appalling crisis for the government that hastens their departure." Others, like Peter Hain and Ken Livingstone, fall into the same camp.

Mr Banks is free to put such views because Mr Smith has given no clear steer on how Labour will treat the third reading. Pressed on the point Margaret Beckett, his deputy, said: "It's extremely important not to discuss every bit of our tactics... to say in advance precisely what we are going to do on this and that."

"As the parliamentary situation develops, we shall want to use every ounce of our room for manoeuvre to get our way on the Maastricht bill."

The ambivalence pervading Labour's present European posture is highlighted by its attitude towards a critical proposed amendment to the Maastricht treaty bill. Amendment 120 is seen by the anti-



Home from home: Philippe Seguin, the French neo-Gaullist leader and Maastricht opponent, addresses Tory Euro-sceptics at the Carlton Club in London yesterday

Maastricht Tories as their best hope of wrecking the bill at its committee stage. It proposes that the embryonic European central bank should be subject to some political control. The amendment is in the names of

Mr Smith and Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary. One would assume that with the support of the Tory rebels they would be planning to vote for their own amendment. But *The Times* has

learnt from informed sources that even this cannot be taken for granted.

Razor's edge, page 1  
Summit's fate, page 10  
Simon Jenkins, page 16

## Smith's leadership under fire

By Nicholas Wood  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith's leadership of the Labour party came under open attack from prominent figures for the first time yesterday.

Bryan Gould, who resigned from the shadow cabinet two months ago after being trounced by Mr Smith in the leadership election, raised the stakes by voicing criticism so far confined to a handful of junior backbenchers and media rumblings.

"It is pointless to pretend that there is not some degree of unease in the party about what is seen as a lack of direction, perhaps even a lack of vision," Mr Gould said in a BBC radio interview.

Mr Gould said that on central policy issues, such as the economy, Labour had little positive to say. "I do not think it is entirely to do with John Smith's leadership. He is widely regarded as a fine debater and provides a very stable and reassuring figure at the head of the party."

Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath and secretary of the soft-left Tribune group, the biggest faction of Labour MPs, said: "We are fine in attacking the shortcomings and shambles of Norman Lamont's policies and the prime minister's economic programme, but we are not offering a clear and distinct alternative."

"On Maastricht, there is concern that we are not going for the jugular and taking every opportunity to defeat the government where we can."



## Rethink on asylum bill

The government last night bowed to Tory backbench pressure and softened its stance on abolishing rights of appeal for visitors refused entry to Britain. Up to 20 Tory MPs protested at a clause in the asylum and immigration appeals bill preventing short-term visitors appealing against rejection of their visa applications.

The government has promised several additional protections for unsuccessful applicants. Those refused a visa would be given a detailed refusal notice, giving reasons for the failed application and making it clear that a rejection would not prejudice any subsequent application. MPs had complained that, under the bill, visitors would be given no explanation against which to base an appeal.

## Plain talk

A bill requiring consumer and housing contracts to be written in plain English was introduced in the Commons by Cyle Brandrup, Tory MP for the City of Chester.

## In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: environment. Debate on fisheries policy. Lords (2.30): Debate on Hong Kong and China.

## Why EC fudge may run out in Edinburgh

Douglas Hurd joked to journalists this week in Brussels that "whatever the outcome of the Edinburgh summit is, I will tell you all that it's what I expected all along."

But, for the past week, ministers have been trying to lower expectations. The talk has been all of "major problems to be overcome" and "continuing wide gaps". That is partly true. There are big differences and Britain wants to put pressure on other EC members to agree. The government also wants to ensure that it can make the best of whatever happens.

But what happens if there is a breakdown? Everything is relative. A large amount of multi-lingual talent will be on hand in Edinburgh to turn stark differences into homogenous fudge. The communiqué will say progress has been made even where there are few signs of it. There is ample scope for compromise and delay over future financing and enlargement.

Some issues cannot be deferred for ever, though. The Danish government will have to decide after the summit whether it has a package which it can put to its voters in a second referendum with a reasonable prospect of success. The British presidency has been trying to broker a compromise and its proposals were reasonably well received yesterday.

The snag is political instability in Denmark. Its government put forward further amendments yesterday to ensure that Denmark is not bound by anything the EC does in the defence sphere. As Downing Street officials said yesterday, that "creates problems".

There are twin dangers: first, that the rest of the EC is unwilling to move as far as Denmark wants; and, second, that Danish voters will reject any package. British officials said yesterday that, even if agreement could not be reached in Edinburgh, talks would continue. That process cannot be infinite, not least because of the impatience of the rest of the EC. Further delay would also weaken the government's position over the Maastricht bill. A second rejection by Danish voters

would doom the Maastricht treaty.

The collapse of Maastricht would be celebrated by a sizeable minority of Tory MPs, and a few ministers, but not by the prime minister or foreign secretary. They fear that the consequences would not only be instability in financial markets and an immediate weakening of the EC's position in, for instance, the Gatt talks and over the former Yugoslavia, but also deepening divisions within the EC. British ministers acknowledge that the EC is bound to develop at differing speeds on various issues. But they fear that, after only a short pause, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, probably France and possibly Spain and Portugal, will go ahead with their own version of monetary and political union.

The government would argue that the end of the Maastricht treaty would not jeopardise Britain's place in the EC — that the existing Community structure would continue. There will anyway be much trumpeting at Edinburgh of the coming into operation of the single European market from January 1 and of Britain's role in securing the American-EC farm deal.

But that could not disguise the big setback which the end of Maastricht would represent. This would threaten the central pillar of the government's European policy which Mr Major has carefully constructed ever since he talked about Britain being at "the very heart of Europe." That in turn would undermine the traditional foreign policy objective that Britain should not be excluded from decisions taken by other leading European countries which affect our national interests. That is, after all, why the Foreign Office has urged a positive British role in the EC since the early 1960s. Following the demolition of its economic strategy on September 16, that would leave the Major government adrift and directionless.

PETER RIDDELL

## Jobless to get £200m package

By Robert Morgan and Arthur Leathley

A PACKAGE of government measures to help the unemployed return to the workforce or to get training was outlined by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, yesterday.

Mrs Shephard, speaking in a Commons debate, told MPs that £200 million more would be available for job creation and training schemes next year. The package, which comes after a wide-ranging review of employment and training measures, would provide 1.5 million opportunities for people to get back to work.

It is aimed at helping the longer-term unemployed and those who have particular difficulty in finding work, such as people with disabilities or people with literacy or numeracy problems.

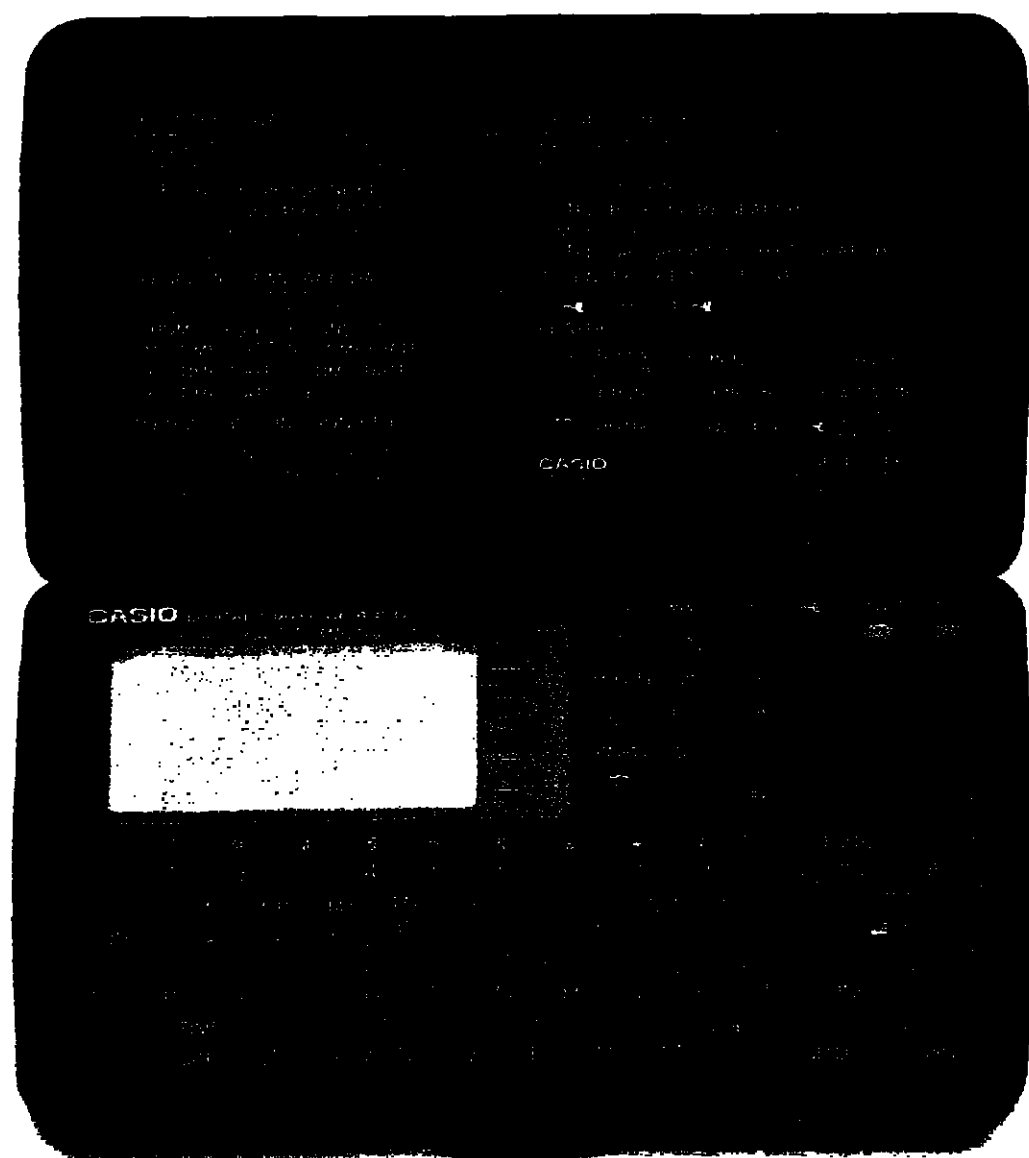
She said the measures would enable training and enterprise councils and local enterprise companies to offer each individual what they needed — skills training, temporary work opportunities or work presentation courses. There would be a bigger role for job clubs.

Opening the Opposition-initiated debate, Frank Dobson attacked the waste resulting from Tory lack of concern about rising unemployment. He said joblessness increased the risk of death, violence and crime, and cost the country £2.5 billion a year in benefits and lost taxation.

Mr Dobson said the young unemployed were at greatest risk, as they were traditionally the "breeding ground" of racism and fascism, who would "transfer their loyalty, their anger, their disillusionment elsewhere".

He condemned the government for not making unemployment a priority of the EC summit in Edinburgh and urged the EC to develop a long-term strategy to reduce the number of unemployed from its current figure of 16 million and achieve full employment.

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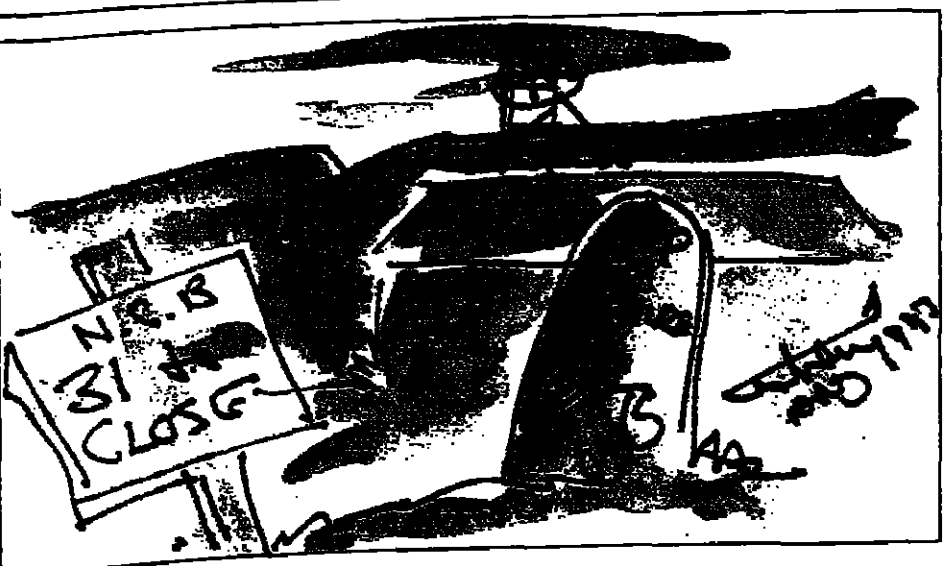
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Winter chill: the Queen and the prime minister are among the 25 recipients of a Christmas card in stark watercolour by the Yorkshire artist Ashley Jackson. The card is

the latest in an annual series, rarely festive and often disturbing, commissioned by Lord Mason, formerly the Labour MP for Barnsley.

## La Scala's opera fans fall out of love with Pavarotti

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

Franco Zeffirelli yesterday called for La Scala to close its "cheap seat" gallery after Luciano Pavarotti was booed and heckled by spectators in "the gods" outraged by a disappointing first night of the season.

Disgruntled opera buffs shouted "vergogna" (shame) and whistled derisively during the sometimes lacklustre rendering of Verdi's *Don Carlos* at the Milan opera house. "Singers go home," screamed another disillusioned fan who had paid 30,000 lire (£18) for a standing room only place in the loggione (gallery) — a paltry sum compared with the up to two and a half million lire demanded on the black market for the prime seats favoured by fashionable Milanese society. Another heckler yelled: "This evening Verdi is crying."

As the curtain went down, Zeffirelli, the director of the extravaganza, hit back at the ungrateful public. "Unfortunately we are exposed to wicked people from whom we cannot defend ourselves," he said. "I would close the gallery for a while. These are people who do not love *Don Carlos*, an opera that requires great culture and a well-disposed mind."

The superintendent of La Scala, Carlo Fontana, said yesterday he would take "drastic measures" to prevent a repetition of the fiasco when *Don Carlos* is performed next on Friday. "This carnival must end. I am not willing to tolerate bullfights that have nothing to do with

knowledgeable listening to an opera."

Signor Fontana declined to say if he would close the gods, a move that would be sure to attract further criticism of authorities for making the opera even more exclusive. "I have said many times that La Scala intends to open itself up to the city — but to the intelligent city that reasons, not to those with intolerable hooligan attitudes."

Pavarotti seemed untroubled. "Criticism is a characteristic of the first night at La Scala and rightly so. I did well 80 per cent of the time. Ten per cent was so so. Ten per cent did not go well," he said. "They would be crazy to close the gods. People in the gallery have the right to express themselves. But they ought to learn to whistle only at the end of the opera... they ought to know that silence is the most damning comment for a romance, but that it is a civil comment."

Pavarotti humorously compared starring at the first night to "throwing oneself into a swimming pool full of piranhas. Unfortunately one of those hungry fish gored me."

The great tenor said his apparent difficulty over certain top notes was partly explained by his not having had enough time to rehearse for the performance.

Asked what he would have written about his singing had he been a journalist, he replied: "I would write that Pavarotti must not accept an



Minor key: Luciano Pavarotti, who was booed at La Scala, as Don Carlos, with Daniela Dessi who sang Elisabeth

opera if he does not have time to prepare it with total calm. I arrived last [in the cast] because my diary was full of engagements." He added that he had not had enough time to understand how to pace himself for the "dangerous curves on the track". Riccardo Muti, the conduc-

tor, also took the public judgment sportingly. "We did a very serious work; only a minority did not understand," he said.

Even before Pavarotti appeared on stage, preparations for the first night were subdued com-

pared to the usual glittering atmosphere. Many of the 200 habitual La Scala goers who failed to book this year were politicians or businessmen implicated in the corruption scandal that erupted in Milan in February. The austerity policies of the government trying to curb its budget

deficit had also dampened spirits.

President Scalfaro shunned smart banquets thrown after the performance and flew directly back to Rome, snatching only a ham sandwich in the interval.

Knives out, page 33

## Bonn sends back 100 Romanians

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

THE first large group of 100 people refused asylum has been sent back to Romania under an agreement between Bonn and Bucharest. The expulsions come after the agreement on changing the asylum law reached between the German government and coalition last weekend. The procedure will also be used in the case of Czechoslovakians and Poles.

There are 100,000 asylum-seekers from Romania in Germany — by far the biggest group in the 450,000 who have arrived this year. Most of them, and most of the group returned yesterday, are gypsies.

The German government has declared that Romania is not a country of political persecution under the terms of the Geneva Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights, and the overwhelming majority of asylum-seekers from Romania are refused. Asylum-seekers often destroy their passports to frustrate the possibility of deportation. Until the recent agreement, Romania refused to take back people without papers.

Some Germans are uneasy aware of the fact that the Nazis and Romanian fascists murdered hundreds of thousands of gypsies during the second world war, and human rights groups have reported 20 pogroms against gypsies in Romania since the revolution against Ceausescu.

Many of the asylum-seekers come in illegally over the land border from Poland and Czechoslovakia. Rudolf

Seiters, the interior minister, promised last night to strengthen the frontier guards, and said his ministry was considering whether soldiers could be used to help.

As violence against foreigners in Germany continues, police are investigating a fire in a hostel in Hamburg largely inhabited by foreigners, in which two children were killed. Anti-racist sentiment continued as well, with Thomas Diemel, leader of the far-right DNP party, boasting at his trial that he was proud to have incited racist violence against foreigners and Jews.

The eastern German neo-Nazi leader is accused of saying he regretted that Germany's younger generation had not killed any Jews and that so few foreigners had been murdered in the latest wave of racist violence.

"I stand by what I said," Herr Diemel, 31, told the court in the eastern town of Rudolstadt. "I've got nothing against foreigners but only against foreigners in Germany. They are just parasites."

He told the court: "No one was deliberately put to death in Auschwitz. I will continue to fight against this lie about the six million."

Atom runners: Bavarian police have smashed two atomic smuggling rings and 12 people have been arrested. On Friday, a Pole and a German woman were held with caesium 137 from the Ukraine. In Munich this week a second gang with a gram of radioactive plutonium was seized.

## Decisions left to individual premiers

## EC ministers avoid clash on Denmark

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE fate of the European Community's Edinburgh summit stayed in the balance last night as EC foreign ministers took another cautious step on the march towards ratifying the Maastricht treaty.

The first discussion of Britain's complex legal proposals for extending and consolidating Denmark's opt-out from central sections of the treaty passed off peacefully with no minister voicing outright opposition and some saying that they wanted changes. Community diplomats emphasised that even calls for minor amendments to such a document could have far-reaching effects, and that the pivotal political decisions will not be made until EC prime ministers meet in the Scottish capital at the weekend.

The summit, and John Major's performance as its chair-



man, will be judged by the outcome of two arguments: the Community's five-year budget and the debate over what to do about Denmark's opposition to Maastricht.

Issues such as what the EC should do about Britain's dislike of Maastricht, the tattered shreds of last year's compulsory timetable for monetary union or about the raging

warfare in the Balkans will hardly be touched.

The budget is not yet settled but is at least familiar ground for EC leaders to fight over. A consensus is gradually emerging in which — as EC tradition requires — all sides can claim victory. Mr Major will be able to claim that he has defended Britain's budget rebate, since the refund will be the target of much complaint but no action. He will be able to tell the Commons that Jacques Delors has been taken down a percentage point or two from his original demands.

By raising contingency funds, massaging a decimal point or two and fiddling with currency adjustments for farm subsidies, Mr Major may well persuade Felipe Gonzalez that he can convince the Spanish government that it has won as much cash as it can squeeze out of its recession-struck northern partners.

The Danish dilemma takes the summiters into uncharted territory. The signals from yesterday's meeting were opaque because even foreign ministers are unwilling to open up the dauntingly deep questions which Denmark's demand for special status poses. They are also trying to avoid provoking further objections to the outline deal which have been heard in Copenhagen.

Moves are afoot among the governments which have already ratified, or are on the verge of doing so, to put pressure on Mr Major. Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, suggested that the Edinburgh summit should set a deadline for Britain and Denmark of midsummer next.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

## German farmers rally against Gatt pact

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

FIFTY thousand German farmers demonstrated in Bonn yesterday against what they called a "Gatt-astrophe for German agriculture", the European Community compromise with the United States on agricultural subsidies and exports.

There were scuffles with police, who sealed off the government areas, and a few arrests. An American car was burnt outside the American embassy, but in good German fashion, it was a car that the Farmers' League had bought specially for the pur-

pose. In comparison with France, the rally passed off mainly peacefully, and the police did not intervene.

The Farmers' League has said that the Gatt compromise will lead to a 32 per cent drop in agricultural exports and the loss of farms. Though the farmers are overwhelmingly government supporters, they have applied heavy pressure on this issue. The government has supported the Gatt deal because pressure from German industry to revive world trade has been even greater.

## Yeltsin barter to keep Gaidar

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

A DESPERATE President Yeltsin yesterday offered the conservative Russian parliament control of four main ministerial posts in an attempt to secure the confirmation of Yegor Gaidar as prime minister and keep his beleaguered reform programme on course.

In a key concession necessitated by the strength of hardline sentiment against him at the Congress of People's Deputies, the Russian parliament drawn from Congress members is being offered the right of veto over the key posts of foreign, defence, security and interior ministers in return for supporting Mr Gaidar.

In a warning to Congress Mr Yeltsin said: "The price of mistakes in choosing a prime

minister may be very high, even fatal." The assembly meets today for the vote on Mr Gaidar's candidacy, seen as the main test so far for the government's radical policies.

Mr Yeltsin, who is fighting concerted opposition in the assembly, threw the weight of his office behind Mr Gaidar in a solemn speech. "With a full sense of my responsibility and at a critical time for Russia, I propose Yegor Gaidar as prime minister. For the whole world this will be the guarantee of Russia moving along the path of reform," he said. He also warned Congress that the country could not afford deadlocks between parliament and government and called for a purge of the bloated bureaucracy.

The offer, contradicting Mr Yeltsin's earlier insistence that the government have full control of cabinet posts, indicates the importance the president attached to keeping Mr Gaidar as a guarantor of reforms, both at home and abroad.

Mr Gaidar needs more than 50 per cent of the 1,064 Congress votes to be elected prime minister. His fate depends on which direction the 200 deputies of no fixed political loyalties, known as "the swamp", take in the final vote of a session notable for the noisy hostility of many deputies to the course the country is taking. Mr Yeltsin's offer is thought to have greatly increased Mr Gaidar's chances of success.

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# Rifkind admits UN mandate in Bosnia may have to change

By ADAM LeBOR IN VITEZ AND NICHOLAS WOOD

MALCOLM Rifkind, the defence secretary, yesterday ruled out United Nations military intervention by ground forces currently in Bosnia but said that the UN mandate may have to be changed.

His two-day visit to British troops in Split and Bosnia coincided with some of the worst fighting for months in Sarajevo. The embattled Bosnian capital was effectively cut off from the outside world yesterday. Serb tanks have closed the main road leading to the airport, the site of a huge international relief effort, according to UN troops in Sarajevo. Fierce fighting continued on the only other road into the town from the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza.

Mr Rifkind, speaking at the British Army headquarters in Vitez, north of Sarajevo, said: "There is legitimate and ongoing debate about the United Nations mandate, but the British UN contingent is carrying it out."

Since their deployment, British troops have come under fire several times from Serb artillery but Mr Rifkind said yesterday that they had all the weaponry they needed to defend themselves. He said that the UN mandate was evolving. "We have seen how the naval blockade of Yugoslavia has been changed to make it more enforceable and there is a no-fly zone in Bosnia,

although there is still concern about helicopter flights."

Mr Rifkind's visit came as fears grew in London that Britain could be sucked into direct military intervention in Bosnia. Ministers expect the UN Security Council to demand shortly the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia. This would mean shooting down Serbian planes defying the air exclusion zone and bombing airfields.

Although ministers are willing to support fresh military pressure on the Serbs, they fear it could prove a slippery slope towards the more direct engagement of British forces in the conflict.

But their doubts may be countered by public opinion in Britain. Ministers expect that their cautious policy towards the Balkan conflict will be questioned over the Christmas holiday if television broadcasts fill the customary news vacuum with harrowing footage of Bosnian women and children dying from hypothermia.

Many Bosnians, both Croat and Muslim, say that the UN relief effort is just a face-saving effort by the West to save Western consciences. But Mr Rifkind denied this and said it was always worthwhile to feed starving people.

But he ruled out intervention by any international ground forces to bring the war to a close. He also said there should not be a change in the arms embargo as the war in Bosnia between Muslims and Serbs, backed and armed by

Belgrade, was "a civil war".

Mr Rifkind said: "Intervention by ground forces would be inappropriate. Such dramatic action would require 100,000 soldiers and then there would be a question mark as to whether it would achieve its aim." For the outgunned Bosnian forces, who daily face Serb heavy armour with only light weapons, he also held out no hope of breaking the arms embargo.

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The poverty of the British and UN policy towards Bosnia was all too evident just 50 miles away as Mr Rifkind spoke. Sarajevo's population of over 350,000, under siege for months, shelled and sniped at daily by Serb forces to cries of outrage from the world, are now effectively cut off from outside help. The airport, closed since the end of last week, after UN planes were shot at, is cut off by Serb tanks. Relief workers say they only have enough supplies for a couple more days to feed a starving population trying to subsist partly on a diet of berries and anything else that they can find.

The UN operation in Bosnia was described as a shambles yesterday by Willem van Eekelen, the secretary-general of the Western European Union. He said that in the eyes of the Serbian warlords, the UN humanitarian effort lacked any credibility.

Speaking in London, he said that jet fighters and helicopters must provide air cover for the food convoys to restore credibility to the military effort which at present was being thwarted "by anyone with an axe to grind".

The latest Serb onslaught on Sarajevo follows the reported fall earlier this week of the western suburb of Otocac and represents a dramatic advance and one of the first major gains in a largely static war for the Bosnian capital since the summer.

UN peacekeepers who approached the Serbs to ask them to stop the fighting said they were forced to withdraw under fire. On Saturday, the UN general in charge of the Bosnian operation had said in Sarajevo that the UN mission there had failed and that in his opinion military intervention should now be considered.

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Drawing the line: Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, talking to British troops at their logistics base in Tomislavgrad, Bosnia, yesterday

## Support grows for observer force in Macedonia

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations is expected to recommend this week that UN observers be sent to Macedonia in an effort to prevent the Balkan war from spreading to the former Yugoslav republic.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, is due

to report to the security council in the coming days on the conclusions of a 12-member UN team that visited Macedonia last week to study a possible deployment. Diplomats say the team favoured sending in a large observer force. But Dr Boutros Ghali

apparently feels that dozens rather than hundreds of observers are required. The dispatch of a UN observer mission of any size would help Macedonia in its claim to international recognition, which is being blocked by Greece. The Greeks claim

that the name Macedonia implies territorial designs on its own northern province of the same name. Kiro Gligorov, the president of Macedonia, has said his government is prepared to compromise by calling the country "Macedonia-Skopje" after its

capital, a name still unacceptable to the Greeks. In Brussels, the European Community's Executive Commission urged Greece on Monday to stop systematic violations of the oil embargo on Serbia by curbing private operators.

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capital, a name still unacceptable to the Greeks. In Brussels, the European Community's Executive Commission urged Greece on Monday to stop systematic violations of the oil embargo on Serbia by curbing private operators.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Factions map out the future

Geneva: Muslims, Serbs and Croats presented maps setting out their plans for a peacetime Bosnia yesterday, but diplomats said renewed fighting in the republic was preventing any real progress at the Geneva peace talks.

Leaders from Bosnia's three national factions presented the maps in separate meetings with mediators from the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia. The mediators, led by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, have been hoping that the maps will unblock negotiations by forcing the three warring sides to show their hands in the specific details of a settlement.

But Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, said: "The combination of firepower [used by the Serbs] and winter conditions is making this conference increasingly irrelevant." (Reuters)

#### Serbs 'have ten more camps'

Paris: Médecins sans Frontières said that it had evidence of several so far unpublished Serb-run concentration camps in Bosnia and urged the UN and the Red Cross to investigate. The French medical charity said interviews with 60 Bosnian refugees in France had uncovered the names of ten further camps — one in Serbia and the others in Serb-held Bosnia. In filmed interviews, the organisation also presented testimony of widespread atrocities against children. (Reuters)

#### Poll campaign

Ruma: Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia, began his re-election campaign with a tour of provincial factories and towns. Despite declining popularity, he said he would win on December 20. (Reuters)

## Albanian forces mass on Kosovo border

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN TIRANA

ALBANIA has begun the redeployment of its armed forces in anticipation of conflict in Kosovo and a flood of refugees across the Vukot mountains into Albania. Tanks and light armoured vehicles have been moving this week from bases around Tirana and other Albanian cities to the Montenegrin border and to Kukes in the northwest, adjoining Kosovo. According to intelligence sources here, an additional brigade of the Yugoslav Federal Army has moved onto the Montenegrin border.

At National Army Day here this week the government of Sali Berisha tried to reassure its citizens that it has credible defences. Speaking at the parade, prime minister Aleksander Meksi said: "The Albanians will always defend



Berisha: trying to calm down his citizens

their country and our armed forces bring national unity."

But defend with what. Albania manufactures its own light weapons at a factory near Berat, in the deep south of the country, but although the government is trying to increase production, most soldiers use antiquated weapons. They say ammunition is very short. There is no money to buy equipment on the international market and the army command is split between pro-Western and pro-Islamic factions.

But whatever Dr Berisha decides may be overtaken by events. The tenth Albanian conscript this year was killed on the Qafë e Thane border this week, by Macedonian militiamen. Macedonians are attacking Albanian shepherds and border guards and ransoming them. Dr Berisha cannot defend his borders: government rhetoric is hollow to inhabitants of remote regions such as Dibra where life increasingly resembles the period before the Balkan wars.

But Dr Berisha does have one shot in his locker, even if it is not an orthodox military one. If "ethnic cleansing" starts in Kosovo, he has said he will open the border on the Albanian side to the Macedonian Albanians. What he has called "the long awaited resolution of the all-Albanian issue" will be on the international agenda.

## UK discounts fears over Greece

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH sources yesterday expressed strong scepticism over rumours that up to 35,000 Greek troops were massing on the Macedonian frontier, saying this appeared to be part of a disinformation campaign by Athens to deter the European Community from recognising Macedonia at the Edinburgh summit.

The sources said that another rumour last week had claimed that Greek forces were ready to occupy a zone 15 miles inside Macedonia in the event of a flare-up in the confrontation between the two countries. British officials have found little evidence, after extensive checks, for any of

these rumours. Britain is able to call upon satellite observation to monitor troop movements in Europe.

Officials have also been unable to verify claims that Nato has warned Greece not to go ahead with any troop movements. "No Nato country that we know of has given any such warning," one official said.

There is no doubt, however, that Greece has made contingency plans should recognition of Macedonia be granted at Edinburgh. Such a move would immediately throw the government of Constantine Mitsotakis into crisis.

Greek foreign ministry

spokesmen, however, have insisted that Greece will not be drawn into any Balkan flare-up, and will not cross the border with Macedonia. With an intense lobbying campaign, Greece is trying to ward off any proposal at Edinburgh to reopen discussion of recognising the former Yugoslav republic, and has appealed to its EC partners for solidarity.

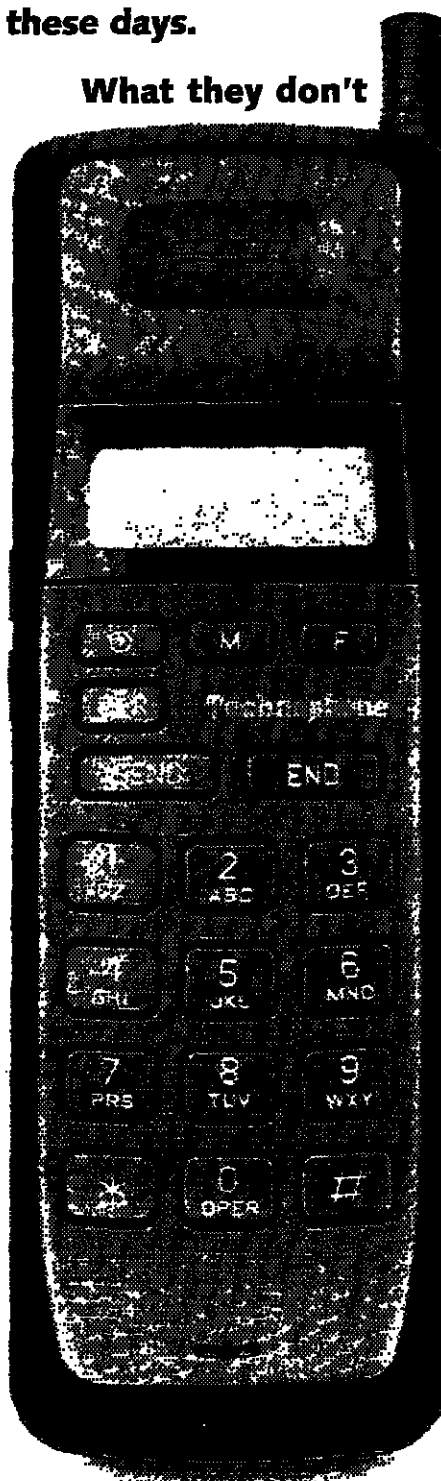
But the British presidency is now considering shelving all discussion of Macedonia, while still hoping that emergency aid to the landlocked republic can be speeded up, as Macedonia is paying a heavy price for United Nations sanctions against Serbia.

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## Extremist leaders seized in Delhi as Islamic world protests at demolition of Ayodhya mosque

## Hindu strike call increases pressure on government

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDIA is steeling itself for a critical test today after hardline Hindus yesterday called a national strike in the wake of national and international outrage over the demolition of a mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya.

The death toll in religious violence reached more than 350 last night, with most of the victims Muslims. Thirty were killed when police fired on a mass march through northern areas of Bombay.

The scale of trouble was not, however, as alarming by India's exceptional standards of unrest as feared after the mosque was demolished by Hindu extremists on Sunday.

Today's strike, called by the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which was behind the assault on the mosque, will be an important test for P. V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister. He seems to have survived calls for his resignation, but a collapse in law and order would intensify pressure on him to resign.

Although the unrest in India seemed to be abating, Muslim outrage elsewhere continued. In Pakistan, the government called a general strike and, apart from the presence of angry demonstrators, the streets were largely deserted. Muslims shouting "Crush India" rampaged through several cities, attacking dozens of Hindu temples, joining large demonstrations and setting fire to heaps of tyres. In the west of Pakistan, at least nine people were killed, including five Hindu children and a woman who were burnt to death in their home. Pakistan called for an emergency meeting of the

Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Muslims in Bangladesh burnt at least 30 temples across the country, set fire to Hindu houses and looted their property. "The infidels have trampled our faith under their feet," Rafiqul Islam Miah, a leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist party, said.

Protesters attacked several Hindu temples in eastern Afghanistan and Najibullah Lafrai, deputy foreign minister, handed a note to the Indian chargé d'affaires in Kabul conveying Afghanistan's anger at the Ayodhya incident. Condemnation came from Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, where hundreds of Indian and Pakistani Muslim traders shut up shop.

In India, six hardline Hindu leaders involved in the assault on the demolished mosque were arrested yesterday for inciting Hindu-Muslim strife. Police consolidated control of Ayodhya, which they seized in a pre-dawn raid that left thousands of people fleeing across fields.

There were no arrests and, more importantly, no injuries. It was the best news for days for Mr Rao. The governing Congress (I) party is rallying around him, not because it believes his handling of the Ayodhya issue has been anything but disastrous, but because his departure could destabilise the administration.

Mr Rao will have to decide what to do with Hindu artefacts placed reverentially inside a newly-built shrine on the site of the demolished mosque. They had been inside the structure since 1948, soon after Hindus took over the mosque from Muslims fleeing



Religious fervour: police driving Muslims away from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad yesterday during demonstrations over the attack on the Ayodhya mosque

## Leader's remorse gives way to mood of defiance

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

to the new state of Pakistan. To move them would incite Hindu hatred; to leave them would upset Muslims and cast doubt on government's pledge to rebuild the mosque.

Several leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, an extremist group that was also involved in the siege of Ayodhya, went to ground to avoid arrest. Curfews remained in force in dozens of towns across the country, including some in the south. Religious clashes in the south are a new phenomenon. Exceptional tension in Bombay can be explained by the activities of Shiv Sena, one of the most shadowy and violent Hindu organisations.

Lal Kishan Advani, leader of the extremist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), blamed everybody else yesterday for what happened at Ayodhya on Sunday. The remorse he expressed on Monday, when he accepted moral responsibility for destruction of the shrine, was gone.

He was combative as police led him away and charged him with inciting Hindu-Muslim conflict. He said he was not responsible for religious violence that has claimed nearly 300 lives across India. Mr Advani added that the government's promise to rebuild the mosque was inflammatory and his arrest showed that the country was heading towards fascism.

Such comments are an attempt to bring Hindu fanatics out fighting rather than accept the abuse heaped upon them. This is bleak news for Indian secularism. The BJP, which stoked religious riots before the elections of 1990 and 1991, cannot survive without a perceived Muslim threat. It seems bloodshed is a necessary ingredient.

BJP leaders are determined to build a temple on the site of the destroyed mosque. That means Ayodhya, situated in the Hindu heartland and charged with the emotion of 400 years of dispute, seems to work for the BJP.

While continuing to satisfy its extremist bedrock, the party will seek to mollify the substantial body of middle-class Hindus who brought it to power in four northern states and made it the official

opposition party in parliament. Moderate Hindus are outraged by the mosque's destruction and disgusted by the BJP. If an election were held today, it would undoubtedly be routed.

However, Mr Advani will use the reaction of Pakistan and other Islamic states to turn the mood around. His immediate tactic is to deflect blame for Sunday's destruction of the mosque on to the government for frustrating the pent-up desires of Hindus to build a temple on the supposed birthplace of Ram, a cherished god.

Temple ablaze, page 2

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## China rules out force in Hong Kong

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN SHENZHEN

THERE will be no military takeover of Hong Kong if Chinese talks with Britain fail, nor are there any plans for a shadow government of Hong Kong in the Shenzhen special economic zone (SEZ) of China adjoining the British territory, a senior Shenzhen official said yesterday.

Asked about rumours in Hong Kong that the People's Liberation Army had planned manoeuvres relating to a Hong Kong takeover, Huang Xin Hua, of Shenzhen's municipal government, said: "I do not believe if negotiations fail there will be a military takeover." Mr Huang described as groundless reports that a parallel administration for Hong Kong would be set up in Shenzhen.

Peking continued its personal attacks on Chris Patten, the colony's governor, yesterday. A Xinhua news agency commentary said Mr Patten had chosen the name "Peng Dingkang", which means "stability and health". The commentary said everything he had done "would destroy Hong Kong's stability and prosperity".

Letters, page 17

## Revelation darkens Mao's immortal light

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

VISITORS to Mao Tse-tung's mausoleum have long been awed by the glow which seems to emanate from his face. Now the technical secrets of his crystal sarcophagus have been revealed, dealing a blow to any intimations of immortality.

China Youth News disclosed yesterday that when Mao died in 1976 more than 10,000 people were involved in designing his sarcophagus. The Communist party held a national meeting of coffin-makers, who competed to produce the perfect resting place for the Great Helmsman. Eventually, six coffins were judged fit for Mao to occupy. He has five spurs, but it is not known whether his body has been moved from

one to another. One of the spurs is bullet-proof, so perhaps somebody thought the Chairman might rise again.

The eerie lighting, which makes Mao look as if he has a light bulb in his mouth, was achieved by running light-conducting fibres into the sarcophagus, directing the beam above his head and on to a hidden reflecting panel, which sent a glow down onto his face. The lighting also disguised his wrinkles, and ultraviolet and infra-red rays — which could have damaged his complexion — were filtered out.

Hundreds of people queue every day to file past Mao in his huge Stalinist-style mausoleum, where he is watched over by armed guards.

## Pretoria halts militants' talks

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

TALKS between the South African government and the Pan Africanist Congress which were due to take place today have been called off because of the PAC's refusal to condemn the anti-white terror campaign being conducted by its armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA).

Following the death of one of the 18 white people injured in last week's bomb blast in a crowded Queenstown steak house, for which the Azanian army claimed responsibility, and a declaration of war on all white South Africans, both President de Klerk and the African National Congress have condemned the campaign. In addition, all sorts of right-wing white political forces are promising retribution if the war is not stopped.

That has not deterred the PAC. A statement from Jake Serole, its political affairs secretary, said yesterday: "The PAC cannot abandon the armed struggle until the objectives of our struggle have been realised. Until there is mutual cessation of hostilities between the PAC and the regime, the PAC is not duty-bound to condemn the element of armed struggle conducted by APLA against the settler enemy structures." Mr Serole added: "If, as they say, talks should be based on good behaviour, in the prevailing violent atmo-

sphere in the country, nobody should be talking to any one."

The most respectable of the right-wing groups, the Conservative party, declared that it would protect South Africans from the Azanian army threat if the National party government refused to do so. "The CP has already anticipated this problem," said Ferdi Hartzenberg, the party's deputy leader, "and already has a comprehensive mobilisation

strategy to counteract situations of this kind."

Threats from the Azanian army were made by several sources, including a man calling himself Congo fibril, a deputy commander. He told the South African Press Association that the army has targeted whites in 19 towns and regions where the "backbone of support" for the South African police and defence force is to be found.

## THE TIMES

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## Americans embrace the moral certainties of Somali crusade

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN NEW YORK

NO AMERICAN newspaper or magazine, and still less any television anchorman (the keepers of the nation's conscience), has been able to resist drawing comparisons between Operation Desert Storm in Iraq and Kuwait and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, and gaining from that a deep and suffusing sense of national well-being, just in time for Christmas.

In the minds of many Americans, the Gulf war was a scrappy, unfinished affair: there was an itchy doubt about whether it was quite acceptable to throw all that expensive military hardware at an

unprofessional army, a doubt compounded when the Iraqis ran away. Then there was the nagging suggestion that perhaps it was all done to further the interests of the Kuwaiti emirs, or the oil industry or the military-industrial complex. For many Americans, the main point of the Gulf war was the hope of removing the despised President Saddam Hussein, which failed to happen.

The operation in Somalia has none of these irritating moral uncertainties and has been portrayed in the United States much as the medieval crusades must once have been painted: a Christian act of charity, might making right. "The US to the rescue" announced the cover of *Time*

magazine. "Taking on the thugs" said an inside page headline, as "once again thousands of American soldiers are donning flak jackets and moving into harm's way on a far-off continent".

That moral choice is presented most graphically by nightly television footage juxtaposing starving Somalis with grinning, gun-toting fighters riding around on Jeeps. The fact that in most instances these men are not Somali gangsters but protection units employed by the television crews is lost on most Americans: usually do not care to point it out.

There is no individual villain, like Saddam, for the networks to vent their ire upon, merely a set of

nameless bandits. The Somali gangs are seen as a concept, not an army, still less a coherent enemy.

Operation Restore Hope is a far more complex, perilous and morally-fraught undertaking than the American media would have its viewers, readers and listeners believe. The few voices of concern raised so far have been muted, for while the Gulf conflict could be opposed on coherent and rational grounds, rationality is harder to maintain when ethics and not realism are the guiding principles. After all, nobody in America wants to say publicly that Father Christmas doesn't exist.

The Somalia operation is a logistical nightmare. The country

has few serviceable runways, fewer ports and no political organisation on which to base military operations. The 28,000 soldiers going into the country must take everything they need with them, from food to petrol, from refrigerators to road-building equipment.

The White House initially claimed that the relief operation could be over by the time Bill Clinton, the president-elect, takes office in late January, perhaps even by Christmas. The Pentagon has quickly scotched that suggestion.

The word used most often here to depict Operation Restore Hope is "self-contained", a description that implies the sort of surgical operation so beloved of military

public relations personnel. But the most problematic issue of whether Somalia can be politically rebuilt, and how, after the people have been fed has been largely relegated to the background.

In some ways the operation in Somalia has been presented as a one-off. Christmas offer to the Somali people, a valedictory act of humanitarian munificence from the outgoing president. Many American commentators have pointed out that the United States has never before mounted such an operation, but few have explored the precedent being set. In another part of the world fighters are also on the loose and food shipments are not getting

through, but the horrors of starving Bosnia-Herzegovina, a tale without the moral simplicity of Somalia, seems unlikely to prompt a similar response.

The troops under Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, the British-born officer in overall command, have already restored hope in the United States: in the capacity of a government taking a moral stance, after an election season of deep cynicism, and in the country's erstwhile role as *primum mobile* of the world's conscience. But raising hopes is very different from realising them, and restoring Somalia is a problem that will long outlast the yuletide spirit or the interest of television anchormen.

## US landing opens battle over looting

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

OPERATION Restore Hope, launched early this morning, is intended to project enough American firepower and resources into Somalia to guarantee the distribution of food to the starving and to keep warring factions at bay.

The 28,000 marines and infantry will provide the law and order which Somalia lacks but without going in with guns blazing, as the Pentagon explained last week. While the focus will be on ensuring food reaches those who need it, there is an implied secondary mission — to disarm the fighting factions who have been stealing aid supplies. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, has said he wants the intervention troops to seize guns and heavy weapons.

In order to facilitate the delivery of relief, the 16,000 marines and 10,000 infantry from the 10th Mountain Division (Light) will be equipped to make as much impact as possible on the rival warlords and their fighters. The 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, New York, has four types of helicopter, the UH60 Blackhawk, UH1 Huey, OH58 Scout and AH1 Cobra. The Cobra, an aggressive-looking attack helicopter armed with TOW and Hellfire missiles and a three-barrel 20mm gun, is particularly likely to impress the local factions.

The light infantry division also has Humvee multi-purpose Jeeps which proved successful in the Gulf war and two-and-a-half tonne trucks that can carry troops or supplies. The division is equipped with howitzers but artillery is

unlikely to be required. The 16,000 marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force will also be bringing Cobras, CH53 Sea Stallions, CH46 Sea Knights and UH1 Hueys. The Americans will control the air because the Somalis do not have aircraft in flying condition.

The marines have light tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles on board the three ships which had been lying off Mogadishu, waiting for the order to launch the operation. The 1,800 marines on USS *Tripoli*, an amphibious assault ship, were the first into Somalia. The Americans, supported by about 5,000 troops from France, Canada and other countries, will spread through the country.

The previous relief effort mounted by the Americans in Somalia in August, code-named Operation Provide Relief, involved the delivery of aid but without troops on the ground to guarantee distribution of the food.

Although 228,000 tonnes of food have been sent to Somalia this year, about a third of the country's six million people remain at risk of starvation. About 300,000 people have died and almost half the grain shipped to Somalia has been looted.

The southern port of Kisumu and Mogadishu's port have had to be closed periodically because of the looting, forcing aid agencies to bring in food on Hercules cargo planes, which is more expensive.

Dawn landings, page 1  
Leading article, page 17



Prisoners of hunger: destitute Somali children, displaced by the civil war, wait behind bars for food at one of many feeding centres in Mogadishu set up by aid agencies

## Schwarzkopf aide heads humanitarian mission

BY BEN MACINTYRE

LIEUTENANT General Robert Johnston, the British-born officer in overall command of the 28,000 troops converging on Somalia to protect relief convoys, performed a crucial role during the Gulf war and served as one of General Norman Schwarzkopf's closest aides.

But friendly as the two generals became during that

conflict, they are very different personalities. Where the commander of the US forces in the Gulf, now retired, was volatile, liable to bursts of anger or emotion and tactically inspired, General Johnston is careful, dedicated and efficient. There is nothing "storming" about the man who at times served as a calming influence on the larger than life General Schwarzkopf.

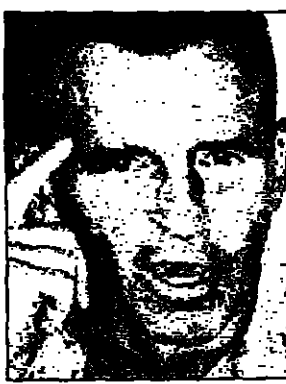
Born in an Edinburgh tenement in October 1937, the son of a jam factory worker, he emigrated to America at the age of 18 and has spent 31 years in the Marine Corps, serving two tours in Vietnam and one in Lebanon, where he commanded a Marine battalion. Deliberate, canny and a strict disciplinarian, General Johnston became a familiar sight during the Gulf war when he was called in to

add weight (and a certain icy control) to the daily press briefings, while behind the scenes he was co-ordinating logistic and battle strategies with a staff of more than 1,000.

As commanding officer of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, California, which is supplying 16,000 troops for Operation Restore Hope, he was an obvious choice to lead the

American and other forces in the mission.

Of all his military postings, it is General Johnston's 1982 tour in Lebanon that may stand him in the best stead when it comes to the intricate task of playing off, or even pacifying, competing Somali gangs. In Beirut he met regularly with the various Muslim factions and gained a reputation for hard but sensitive bargaining.



Johnston: reputation for sensitive bargaining

Five years after it began, the intifada has become a way of life and death for Arab and Jew

## Israel seals Gaza in hunt for gunmen

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

AS YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, arrived in London for talks with John Major today, Israeli troops enforced curfews on towns and refugee camps across the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday and barred residents from leaving the area.

Mr Rabin, who is on a three-day private visit, will brief the prime minister on a lunch on the peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and on the dashes in the occupied territories. Britain has welcomed Israel's more flexible negotiating position, but is likely to underline its continuing concern about human rights in the West Bank and Gaza.

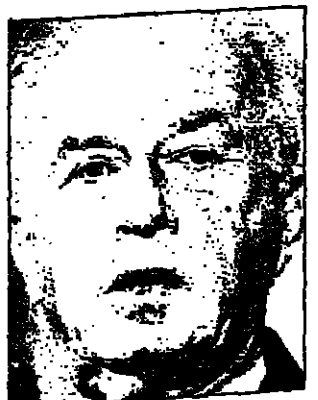
The measures in Gaza are

defensive, with hardliners calling for a crackdown in Gaza. It came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in Washington over the future of the territories.

Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, said: "Those who open fire with rifles do not just harm soldiers. They are trying to murder the peace process." Mr Peres urged Palestinian negotiators to reconsider their opposition to Israel's proposal for election of leaders to oversee self-rule arrangements in the West Bank and Gaza. "The Palestinians will have to determine if they want their decisions made by the power of the rifle or the power of majority rule," Mr Peres said.

The strictures confine most of the more than 700,000 Gaza Strip residents to their homes, and cover six refugee camps, including Jabaliya, where the uprising broke out on December 9, 1987.

Meanwhile, the army suffered another setback, this time self-inflicted, when soldiers wounded one another during an attempted operation against Palestinian suspects near the West Bank city of Jenin. Four soldiers were injured as a result of "a fault in the co-ordination of activities between two units which caused them to fire at one another", army officers said. Israel radio reported that the confusion had arisen because both units were made up of undercover soldiers disguised as Arabs. "An army force on a mission, its members disguised as Arabs, encountered border policemen who were also dressed as Arabs in the same sector. The two units shot at one another."



Rabin: will brief Major on peace negotiations

aimed at deterring violent protests and supporting an army hunt for Muslim fundamentalist gunmen who shot dead three Israeli soldiers north of Gaza City on Sunday. The attack, the most lethal against Israeli troops since the intifada began, has put the Israeli government on the

## Disillusioned Palestinians exchange stones for bullets

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

Palestinians today mark the fifth anniversary of the intifada against Israel amid growing disillusionment at the snail's pace of the Middle East peace talks and concern about the tendency among young militants to exchange the stone for the gun.

With 963 Palestinians killed by Israelis during the uprising, 109 Israelis dead, including 21 soldiers, and over 80,000 Palestinians detained, the statistics speak for themselves. But they do not hint at the dangers for the Middle East if a solution is not quickly found to a conflict recently overshadowed by Bosnia and Somalia.

The anniversary comes after Monday's killing of three Israeli reservists in a hail of gunfire by militants belonging to Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group, who are determined to sabotage the peace process begun in Madrid last year. Israel responded to the shooting by sealing off the occupied Gaza Strip and imposing curfews on at least 700,000 Arabs in the towns and refugee camps. For those Jews and Arabs on the ground the intifada has become a way of life. Its frequent commercial strikes are a sign of Palestinian impotence, and the reluctance of all but hardline Jewish settlers to travel in Arab areas

further reduces the chances of understanding between the two divided communities.

Even before Monday's fatal ambush, claimed by the Izzadin Qassas faction, the Israelis had issued a booklet cataloguing the steady rise in the number of attacks involving firearms. There were 38 shooting incidents in 1988, 102 in 1989, 158 in 1990, 262 in 1991 and 344 so far this year. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have killed 11 Israeli soldiers this year, as many as during the previous four put together.

A further sign that the uprising has not abated came in figures showing that

the number of Palestinians killed by troops has jumped sharply in recent weeks after declining over the past two years. There has also been a rise in the number of Palestinians killed by fellow Arabs, mostly on suspicion of collaboration, to 678, and those killed by Israeli undercover units, often disguised in Arab dress.

Shlomo Gazit, a distinguished former Israeli chief of military intelligence, said yesterday that the longer the intifada continues without progress in the negotiations "the more it will encourage and strengthen the rejectionist forces who oppose a political solution".

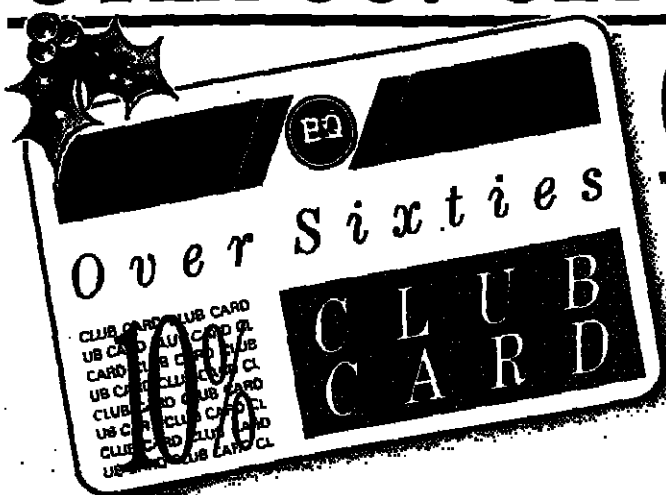
The mood of despair among many Palestinians has increased in the wake of the Labour party's election victory this summer, ending 15 years of Likud rule. There were initial hopes for a softening in Israel's refusal to trade all the land occupied in 1967 for peace.

Instead, Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, has offered only a limited form of interim Palestinian autonomy similar to that already rejected by the Palestinians in the 1979 Camp David peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who is believed

to be suffering from increasing ill health, is hard put to sell partial autonomy to his followers, who want an independent state, let alone to the Palestinian rejectionist groups now united in a new ten-strong coalition based in Damascus.

The mass demonstrations that began the intifada have given way to more classic guerrilla tactics and the early unity in support of the Palestinian cause has been replaced by a internecine war between the Islamic radicals and more moderate supporters of the mainstream PLO. This now threatens any solution, should one emerge from the peace talks.

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# Why don't girls take the lead?

Will a new project help girls overcome educational prejudice?

Libby Purves went to two very different schools to find out

Tomorrow at the Speaker's House at Westminster will gather an impressive body of the great and the good in education, led by Baroness Bragg (a former High Mistress of St Paul's) and from state education Tamsin Manning, the head of Hampstead School. They will launch the new project of the Menerva Educational Trust, formerly part of the 300 Group promoting women MPs, and now an independent and apolitical body. "The classicists among us," Jill Barton, its co-ordinator says, "assure me that our spelling is permissible. There were too many Minervas with an 'i' already." The goddess of learning is much in demand.

She is, it seems, needed. The project is a pack of advice and fact-sheets entitled "Girls in a changing world", produced as a reaction to surveys which suggest, according to Menerva, that girls not only lack confidence but are being steered away from science and

technology, despite the reforms of the new curriculum. The pack is intended to help teachers "prepare young women for positions of responsibility in public life" and by Christmas — thanks to £20,000 of sponsorship from bodies including British Rail and Yorkshire Television — it will reach every secondary school in the country.

It takes a wide sweep, from hints on setting up debating societies and the "challenge of industry conferences" to public speaking, technology and even physical grooming (left over 1960s feminists may gibe at the way Mrs Barton, one of the new realist school of feminism, speaks feelingly of every woman's need for a navy blue interview suit).

Up-to-date as it is, the pack at times evokes a bracing tang of Miss Buss and Miss Beale and the great tradition which pushed so many girls on and upward in a far more male world than today's. We acquired early copies and tested



Rich ambition: head Mike Worsley and the girls of Broadway, Birmingham, welcomed the project... "There is a demand for material like this, to help us lift aspirations and confidence"

them on two secondary schools: one girls' and one mixed, one rural and one city, one fee-paying and high achieving, the other a comprehensive bobbing along in the bottom fifth of the government league table for Birmingham. In short, one rich, and one poor.

St Felix school — founded in 1897 — has 260 girls and 75 green acres of Suffolk. In an elegant country house drawing-room of a study, its head, Sue Campion, considered the pack briefly before photocopying it, circulating it in the staffroom and the seven boarding houses and holding

two meetings to analyse it. All this within 12 hours of being asked. But that's St Felix for you. Its last headmistress but one left, in middle life, to bicycle around the world alone. "The enthusiasm," says Mrs Campion, who came a year ago from a state girls' grammar, "is tremendous. I

say two words and they're off. In the spring I said 'Mock election' at morning assembly and by 10.30 break I had seven political parties, committees and candidates, queuing outside my office."

So the pack was rather preaching to the converted. Mrs Campion applauds its intention, and its lists of useful addresses, but said the staff found it underrated the sheer work involved in setting up, for instance, a Young Enterprise scheme. She also disliked the jargon. "Must we have this word, pro-active?"

But she thoroughly approved of its wide circulation and the need for it. Bright her own flock may be, but even among them she sees the telltale signs of incipient uncertainty. "One should really start at primary school or before. One of our girls said to me 'Look, everyone here tells us we can be the best and do anything, but at home my father sits waiting for my mother to serve his lunch, and my brother waits for me to clear his. It's been like that since the day I was born.'"

Mrs Campion's volunteer panel arrived, glowing with health and opinions. "The thing is, you need good staff to keep activities like those going." "We like being a girls' school, because you get confidence from that. But the main thing is that nobody gets any confidence except real thugs unless you have small classes, do they? Not huge groups like my other school. In small groups, you dare speak." "I think," said one, "it might take a hundred years for boys to stop swaggering and putting girls down. It's traditional." "Like my brother," observed another, darkly.

A quick survey revealed these girls' ambitions as journalism, medicine, physiotherapy, "something in maths", art history, the law, industrial design and "being a mortician", which last transpired to mean a forensic scientist, or conceivably a gentle leg-pull. They had no objection to being told to groom themselves for job interviews. "But we know about power dressing. We watch *LA Law*." We discussed family life only briefly, it being considered a mere interruption of the careers they planned. "Not that I would ever condemn someone for being a homemaker," Mrs Campion says. "We teach flower arranging as well as karate, you know." I left, convinced that any flowers these girls arranged would be well advised to stay arranged.

The Broadway School lies on the northern edge of inner Birmingham, holding 1,400 pupils. The head, Mike Worsley, occupies a tiny, functional study enlivened by bright Indian parrot mobiles. The children flowing past the door are, he says, "mainly from the Pakistani community, but also Sikh, Bangladeshi, Asian, Afro-Caribbean, Vietnamese, Chinese, and white". His catchment includes Handsworth and Aston.

"Children travel outward to this school," Mr Worsley says. "Parents who live outside the ring road tend to look to schools farther out. We are an inner-city school and not very far up the league table. I'm afraid." Mr Worsley, a gently spoken, humorous man, has spotted *The Times*'s league table in my file. Broadway is 58th out of 71 in Birmingham. But it has had its triumphs, not least involving girls. Last month three of its sixth-form girls stormed to victory in the

Tidy Britain national environment awards on the strength of their presentation about a courtyard garden they had restored — several times, owing to vandalism — in the heart of the school. They had also made some tough-minded submissions on housing development in the area.

"We walked into the Waldorf in London for the finals," the head remembers, "and they said 'We're the only Asians here!' And I said 'go on — do it'. And they were wonderful. Other children had an adult helping with the presentation, but they only let me change the slides."

**'It might take a hundred years for boys to stop swaggering and putting girls down. It's traditional'**

The school also has an active United Nations group led by girls, and puts teams into the Bar national law competition to do mock trials in a real crown court. "An experience of formality is vital. Like committee work: getting to understand the point of procedure, and agendas, and systems." Mr Worsley studied the Menerva material and pronounced it "Good stuff. There's rather a lot of telling in it, isn't there? But very welcome. There is a clear demand for material like this, to help us lift girls' aspirations and confidence. I would prefer to see more cross-referencing

strong ones at that, who've had to persuade boys off the equipment. Computers are a great worry here, because they are so expensive and we've lost £130,000 off our budget this year, partly due to the fact that we have so many settled, long-serving teachers on higher scales. So we have set up a girls' computer club time."

In class, he says, it takes positive effort by the teacher to counteract swamping, not least because of the "very traditional" Asian family structures from which many of his girls come. "I once said 'I need three strong responsible people to do a job' and picked them, and the boys were outraged because they were all girls. I had done it on purpose in order to talk about it."

But Asian girls' ambitions, in particular, must be kindled with tact and caution. "At my last school we had a suicide, and I have known other attempts. Girls who had learned to want freedom and responsibility, and families which said no," Mr Worsley says. "We have to be delicate, and help them to live in two worlds."

Unaccountably, my mind flicked back to the girl at St Felix, privileged enough, but still with the memory of her mother's handmaiden role. "The good thing," Mr Worsley says, "is that we are now finding the mothers in these families starting to say they want their daughters to have opportunities they did not. They may have to say it through an interpreter, but they mean it."

Outside, Farida and Farida, Kim and Komer and Nita from the environment committee exuded as much confidence as any St Felix girl. "Boys do try to put us down — we don't put up with that." "I'm chair, the vice chair is a



Rich opportunity: Sue Campion, and pupils of St Felix

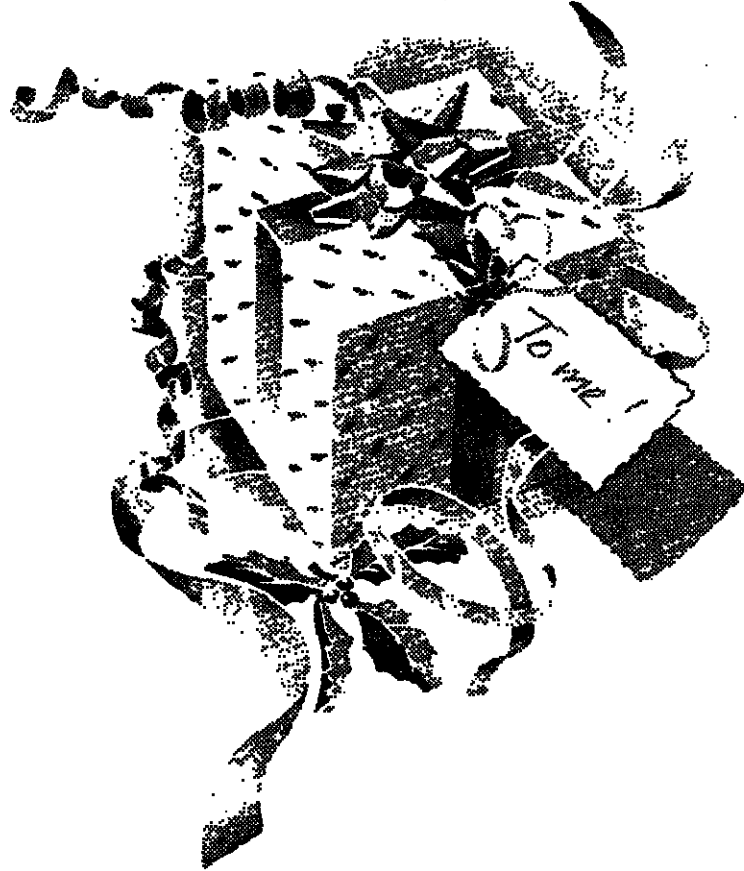
boy, we work together fine. Nobody bosses anybody."

To build the courtyard garden they liaised with a building firm, negotiated trainee bricklayers to build raised beds, and are still considering the problem of policing it against the little vandals from Year Seven who keep harassing the fish. If they crack that one, they will be one jump ahead of the adult world.

"We've got a big park near here, but nobody dares go in it because of the gangs. Stupid." Which is just what one would hope the next generation would say, before taking over.

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INTERCITY



# The haute returns to couture

Tomorrow, the lights will be switched on again at the Costume Institute in New York. Kate Muir previews the revived exhibition

When *couture* was *haute* and *dames* were *grande*, Diana Vreeland ruled the Costume Institute at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. All Manhattan bowed to the former *Vogue* editor's whims and her word on style. After Mrs Vreeland's death three years ago, the institute went quiet, and its annual Christmas ball was acknowledged by society ladies to have "lost a little of its *élan*". All the costumes were returned to subterranean warehouses, the country returned to recession, and the galleries remained in darkness.

Tomorrow, at the opening of the redesigned Costume Institute, the lights will be turned on again after nearly two years, and the critics and crowds will pour down the marble staircase to worship at the new shrine to fashion. The signs bode well — the A-list blessed the Christmas ball in aid of the institute on Monday night, with names and dresses not seen since the heady consumerist days of Nancy Reagan and Imelda Marcos. The recession, in both the economy and amusement, was deemed over.

The redesigned institute is the work of a Frenchwoman, Katell le Bourhis, who bears the burden of selecting 120 costumes and 80 accessories from the 60,000 available, starting in the 15th century. She is to be found putting the last touches to the displays, speaking various languages and gesturing wildly through the glass cases at beleaguered men moving mannequins an inch here, an inch there, until she is satisfied.

"I have tried," she says between commands, "to express the depth of the collection. Some dress preserved behind green glass cannot represent the whole 18th century. That's not fashion. That's a funeral parlour."

Instead, there will be no permanent collection, just permanent galleries which will change their contents every three to six months.

Ms le Bourhis has decided on four themes for her "Fashion and History: A Dialogue" exhibition, plus a historical section dedicated to the beginning of rococo style. Interest lies not only in the clothes themselves, but in the donors. In the Symbolism of Black and White section, a silk black evening slip with a trailing overdress by Balenciaga was donated by the unfortunate Mrs Claus von Bulow. Lauren Bacall has given her carnation-printed 1950s silk summer dress in the Floral Imagery section, and the Duke of Windsor's (post-abdication) plus fours with brass buttons feature prominently in the Evolution of Tweeds section. The last section, Geometric and Abstract Imagery, includes one of Diana Vreeland's own dresses.

For those who have wandered peering hopefully in the gloom of the Victoria & Albert's costume galleries, this collection will come as a relief. Halogen lights, untinted floor-to-ceiling glass, complex climate control, and the rotation every few months, mean that delicate materials survive proper scrutiny without fading.

The impermanence appeals to Ms le Bourhis, who is moving on to a new job as the costume curator at the Louvre.

"Permanence does not represent fashion. Spontaneity does." A disciple of Mrs Vreeland, having been her assistant for a number of years, Ms le Bourhis has been allowed to break out.

Dressed in black with proper Vreeland style, her red nails point rapidly at the mannequins while a stream of fashion-consciousness comes from between red lipstick. "We begin with a mourning matron in black and a white wedding dress, then we have a child's white communion dress. So the colours then represent virginity and death. Then suddenly there are black polka dots on white chiffon. To me it says: garden parties," she says pointing at two in Cecil Beaton's *My Fair Lady* style. "Then we have the little black dress. Chanel has stolen it from Downton Abbey," she continues, pointing out a black jersey suit next to a maid's uniform, the only difference being the frilly apron. "And the Americans thought that Chanel was the height of sophistication." She smiles.

Ms le Bourhis does not want her future visitors to sigh over a pretty dress. She wants them to make connections between eras and cultures. So she stands a 1960s black and yellow striped pony-skin coat right next to an 18th-century green and cream striped dress, with the same sensibility behind the fabric design.

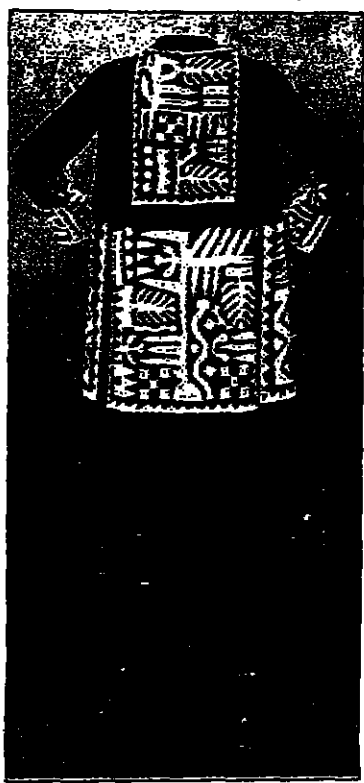
For a great American costume collection, native designers could do better. Isaac Mizrahi's 1992 short dress with a poppy paint splash, a take-off of the 1950s models that surround it, is shown but, "I look at the clothes, not who makes them," Ms le Bourhis says.

She points out that there are plenty of American frocks on her mannequins, but big European names — Yves Saint-Laurent, Balenciaga, Dior — do disproportionately well. This is partly because much of the later collection comes from the gifts of rich Europeans clearing their closets.

At least the mannequin's features are American through and through. The face is based on the supermodel, Christy Turlington. "I was looking for a graceful, subtle, yet animated face with balanced geometric form," says the exhibition's stylist, Cindy Sirko. The hair, in a trendy little touch, has been made in raffia according to each period by Oribe, New York's hairdresser of the moment.

The mannequins are all grey, so as not to detract from the costumes, but the body of the supermodel was no use for real people's clothes. Each mannequin was designed to fit its dress, recalling the physical builds and stances of different eras. "There are some enormous sizes here," says Ms le Bourhis.

Nevertheless, the corset display is a worrying sight. Real 18-inch waists. Although Ms le Bourhis emphasises optical illusion — she has put the corsets in a case which shows them in the round and points out that much gets tucked at the back — waists, on the whole, remain tiny. "Yes, fashion is very much about changing the shape of the body," Ms le Bourhis says. "Even naked, if a woman shaves her armpits, that is fashion. Fashion is not about being natural."



1927 outfit of ivory appliqué on navy silk by Mariška Karasz



Above: Silk-and-linen dress from circa 1770s France (right) and chevron-patterned dyed pony-skin coat from the US in 1960. Left: a 1954 Norrell summer day dress that belonged to Lauren Bacall (left), an Isaac Mizrahi day dress that pays homage to the 1950s and to the flower photographs of Irving Penn (centre), and a rose-printed 1953 evening Dior

## Too sexy for my smalls



SARAH MOWER

Something most peculiar is happening to our underwear. This struck me forcibly in the High Street Kensington branch of Knickerbox in London at the weekend, where I found myself rooted to the spot by what appeared to be Great-Auntie Flo's maroon boiled wool combinations in one corner, faced by Septette's unmentionables in the other. These were being fallen upon in delight by young people of both sexes and the minuscule shop had every appearance of doing the brisk trade in the mall.

Madonna, eat your heart out. She may have started the historical underwear trend with all that retro corsetry, but the way fashion is moving now suggests a backlash against everything the woman stands for. Delving into the past may still be the design method, but the time zone of fashionable choice is shifting decisively away from Madonna's favourite *Monroe/Mansfield* 1950s and 1960s. Now we're back further still to comfy, concealing, very deliberately un-sexy 1930s underwear one connects more with hard winters in northern back-to-backs than lime-light in Hollywood.

"It's all about firesides and hot chocolate," says Janie Godber, who co-founded Knickerbox in 1986 with her partner Stephen Schaffer. "I hate all that sexy, sexy stuff on the high street. To me, this is the wholesome, alternative sexy, for cuddling up in at home." Resist it as much as you like, 1990s home-loving, monogamous, cocooning values are about to penetrate right down to your undies. You might as well chuck out your Wonderbra now.

Not that the shock-value of this new/old underwear is any less arresting than what went before. (Sans shock, you can forget it for the radical young.) Grown-ups will think it incomprehensibly revolting, which is, of course, one of its great virtues. Locating "modesty" as a selling point is Knickerbox's neatest idea yet, since it's the only move left that can rebelliously contradict what's happening in the middle-aged mainstream — yea, even at M & S.

(Actually, the fact that Marks's underwear department, all frothed up in lace and underwiring, has given up selling a good pair of solid cotton knickers is what drove me to Knickerbox in the first place. Can you hear me, Mr Greenbury?)

However promising Knickerbox's progress — it has expanded to 57 outlets in the UK and is now trying the waters on the Continent — it cannot pretend to be anything but a gnat-bite on the rump of the 40 per cent of the UK underwear market that belongs to M & S. Yet it takes a company like this — young and daring and committed to trying out the extreme — to goad the lumbering beast of high street fashion onwards. As long as it doesn't cost a fortune, the public is just as hungry for clever, advanced design as it was in the 1980s, which is why underwear is one of the fastest-moving sectors of the moment.

"People aren't going out to restaurants five times a week now," reflects Ms Godber. "They're staying in — and if they're going to spend money on clothes at all, it's easier to treat themselves to something comfortable and fashionable to lie around in for £20, than to lash out £120 on a piece of underwear."

Founded at the tail-end of the boom, when Godber and Schaffer were 24 and 28, Knickerbox could have ended up as another crazy nonsense of the 1980s niche retailing. In fact, NatWest were cautious in their backing, forcing a pattern of slow growth "which was in many ways our saving grace". Looking back, it seems amazing that anyone should have lent money to such youngsters to start a business — even though Godber and Schaffer were primed with M & S experience. Those were the 1980s and these are the 1990s, and it certainly couldn't happen now.

Still, armed with new investment and a market that is running their way, Knickerbox appears to be hitting its stride. Part of the secret, Ms Godber says, is that they've eliminated the rat (Bunking Bunny boxer shorts were once a feature) and resolved to keep on pushing the boundaries of design. "We've become much more innovative, and the customer has come with us all the way," she says. In an increasingly tacky and desperate high street, that's a up the big guys might note to their advantage.

Vogue, as edited by the Dalai Lama, is simply divine

## Tibetan trendsetter

Say "editor of French *Vogue*" and the image is of a chic, high-powered woman. Spiritual leaders in flowing saffron robes do not normally leap to mind. But, in something of a coup even for a business given to novelty, the Christmas edition of the venerable fashion magazine was put together by the Dalai Lama.

Right, the sceptical may respond, and the Pope has edited *Playboy*. *Vogue* did in fact persuade the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet to act as its guest editor, unpaid, joining a Christmas tradition which has included stints by illustrious personalities including Joan Miro, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Orson Welles and Federico Fellini. The Pope declined when *Vogue* approached him a few years ago.

This year's result is both striking and disconcerting. As heavy as ever with luxury and fashion, *Vogue* presents 70

pages, ravishingly illustrated in the *National Geographic* mode, devoted to explaining Tibet, Buddhism and the life of its leader. Surely no *Vogue* editor has ever told its readers that "clothes play no role in spiritual observance... All that is illusion. Compassion and love — those are the real jewels. Put the most beautiful dress on a closed face and it serves no purpose."

Colombe Pringle, the French *Vogue* editor, said her team came up with the idea as an antidote to the climate of decadent excess, typified recently by the fuss over Madonna's book, *Sex*. "It's a sign that we're moving on to another way of looking at things," Mme Pringle says. "We need to be asking other questions."

The Dalai Lama invited Mme Pringle and her crew to spend the week working with him at his exile headquarters in Dharamsala, India. The only stipulation was that there should be no naked women in the edition. The lingerie advertisements were no trouble.

"It was a fantastic experience. We worked with him even in private audience," Mme Pringle says. "He chose and gave us some great ideas. We were the workers and he was the big chief."

Fashion only makes its appearance in the Tibet pages with a spread on how the monks put on their robes, and there are some striking photographs, chosen by the Dalai Lama, of laughing monks shaving their heads. The Dalai Lama's own words consist of a long interview in which,

among other things, he approves of contraception, condemns abortion, and talks of his fear of flying. The world may be shifting from the material to the spiritual, but one supposes that in the interest of its advertising, *Vogue* does not want to take self-denial and frugality too far. For those who prefer "fashion" turned towards the inner life, as the text puts it, *Vogue* presents a bleak sepia-coloured section in which Sinead O'Connor look-alikes pose meditatively. Their garb is monastic, though not cheap, since it is designed by Issey Miyake, Martin Margiela, Helmut Lang and Comme des Garçons.

Mme Pringle says sales and advertising are going extremely well. "I think, bizarrely, that we've hit the target with the Dalai Lama."

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Bryan Appleyard

### ■ The Prince of Wales's woolly spiritual vision has brought him derision and abuse

Speaking in Paris Prince Charles achieved the improbable feat of adding to the current anti-royal sentiment by appearing to side with the French farmers over Gatt. He suggested that protecting the ancient qualities of rural France might be more important than sacrificing them on the altar of world economic growth.

It was a characteristic contribution: well-meaning but, in political terms, breathtakingly ill-judged. A stupid, reflex francophobia runs deep in the British psyche. The Gatt issue was one that released the worst of that old paranoia by appearing to show that here, for once, we had caught the French being crudely self-seeking and, best of all, we had the rest of the world on our side. The prince plunged in against the tide of this low, desperate self-satisfaction at a time when the last thing the monarchy needed was more popular irritation.

The first point here is in his defence. British popular feeling on the matter was ignorantly hypocritical. Certainly we have big, efficient farms in East Anglia, but, like the French, we also go to inordinate lengths to protect our countryside with massive intervention. Hill farmers in the Yorkshire Dales or other national parks receive in total about three quarters of their income from subsidy. We subsidise them not primarily because we need their wool or lamb, but because the alternative would be the destruction of those national parks. If they were not grazed they would quickly be overrun by fern and scrub. Such subsidies have no economic logic, they are concealed heritage grants.

The second point is more ambiguous; it is the strange issue of Prince Charles himself. The Gatt pronouncement springs from a genre of his own invention, it is consistent with what he has said on architecture, education and the environment. The general mood of this genre is familiar: anti-progressive, fearful of the effects of unbridled profiteering, suspicious of technology and possessed of an inchoate yearning for some form of holistic vision. It is a posture that has earned him derision and abuse — from the feeble Laurens van der Post-quoting duffer in *Private Eye* to the mumbling, rubber doped in *Spitting Image*. At one level his place in the popular imagination is clear: he is dreamy, ineffective and hopelessly unrealistic to an almost infantile degree. He frequently notes the quality of his own image with apologetic asides on the way he is perceived as "mildly dotty or, at worst, a relatively harmless crank".

Some of the abuse is well-earned. His role in architecture has been more damaging than he can possibly realise. At the most elevated level this is because he has embraced an old aesthetic heresy. Launching his Institute of Architecture in January he said: "the kinds of buildings that tend to appeal to the human heart, and which make us feel at home, are a very specific range of buildings." This is the familiar attempt to attach an ideal of human timelessness to the specifics of style. It is absurd, but it is precisely the kind of sophistry to which a man of the prince's seeking, discontented temperament would be vulnerable.

At a lower level his ignorance of the real workings of real politics has resulted in a planning nightmare in which "Wrenaissance" belfries or cornices can be glued to any old hyperstone in the name of satisfying his whims. Modernism, in part because of the prince, has become a term of abuse. But it is clear why he makes these errors — it is for the same reason that he is right, for example, about education. He wishes to defend something that he cannot quite define, but which is hinted at by words like "human" and "spiritual" and by his awkward mystical groupings.

"The temptation to conform can be very powerful," he has said, "so why haven't I? What is it that produces this overwhelming feeling... in my heart that the whole universe is based on the most profound principles which in themselves represent a giant paradox, but which for me inspire a continual sense of awe and reverence? I confess that I don't know what it is..."

In theory he should not have any problem with what Freud would have called this "oceanic" feeling. His position has given him a clear religious destiny as the next head of the Church of England and even the most liberal of Anglicans would acknowledge such a sensation as a legitimate source of his faith. "What it is" should, quite evidently, be the mystical truth of Christianity.

Yet his message is seldom expressed in specifically Christian terms. He has, in fact, criticised the Judeo-Christian heritage for encouraging (in Genesis) the very anti-ecological idea that man has "dominion" over the world. The result of what is obviously a suspicion of the details of the Christian tradition is that his ideas tend to emerge flavoured with something of the all-embracing gullibility of a New Age catalogue. Spirit is, he says, "both 'pagan' and Christian, or any other religion from that point of view, and in this sense is surely the fundamental expression of what we call religion."

This appalling, super-liberalised dilution of thought is at the heart of the prince's quandary. Imprecise and undefinable, it leaves him open to ridicule and, in the case of architecture, to manipulation by partisan bigotry. Yet in, however vaguely, wanting more than he can say or is told, the prince cuts a decent, frustrated figure. Somewhere, beneath all this mess, he is right and, from time to time, people have seen this and sympathised. As a first step in regaining some of that sympathy for himself and for the royal family as a whole, he should at once sack all his dreadful advisers and start, slowly and precisely, to think again.

The Queen Mother may not attend her granddaughter's remarriage. Tony Higon explains Anglican qualms

## Divorce and the church

Why is it that the Princess Royal cannot be remarried in the Church of England? After all, English law allows a marriage to take place in church. However in 1957 the bishops and clergy of the Canterbury Convocation affirmed: "That in order to maintain the principle of lifelong obligation which is inherent in every legally contracted marriage and is expressed in the plainest terms in the Marriage Service, the Church should not allow the use of that service in the case of anyone who has a former partner still living."

There have been subsequent debates on the subject but this regulation remains in force, although it is contravened by some clergy. Had the royal family, therefore, asked for the wedding to be within the Church of England it would have provoked a major crisis. Some people see this as an example of the church failing to relate to the realities of marriage and divorce in the 1990s. But there are important principles at stake. The church is not a mere ecclesiastical wing of the state which benignly blesses what an increasingly secular society does. Its function is primarily to represent God to the nation.

In the matter of marriage and divorce this means that the church should affirm biblical principles (both theological and moral) and it should manifest Christian compassion. The church is not at liberty to undermine biblical teaching. There are, though, different interpretations of the biblical material on divorce and remarriage. Some rule out any divorce because of Jesus's words in Luke 16:18 "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery and the man who marries a divorced

woman commits adultery." However, it is clear that this verse is not a complete record of Jesus's teaching on the matter. In Matthew 5:31-32 he says, "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

While Jesus clearly rules out many of the current reasons for divorce (incompatibility, irretrievable breakdown) he does allow the possibility of divorce on the grounds of "marital unfaithfulness". The Greek word translated as "marital unfaithfulness" has a root-meaning of fornication but is used in a wider sense of sexual

immorality. The natural meaning here is adultery. Jewish law allowed divorce on the basis of either premarital unchastity (discovered after marriage) or adultery. Behind this lay the principle that extra-marital intercourse dissolved a marriage by creating a new union. Divorce was merely a recognition of this.

So the New Testament sanctions divorce only on the grounds of marital unfaithfulness. But many modern divorces do not fit these biblical criteria. So the church should not appear to sanction them. It is a separate question, however, as to whether the New Testament allows remarriage after a divorce which is sanctioned on biblical grounds. In my opinion this is so. Scripture seems to assume remarriage

will take place. Social conditions in the ancient world would surely have forced a divorced woman to remarry in order to survive financially. So much for the moral principles. But compassion is fundamental to Christianity also. God's laws are loving because they are about human welfare. But to apply a principle without compassion is to sin. Even where there is no marital unfaithfulness a marriage may be intolerable — because of violence, for example. There is no biblical reason why separation should not take place in such circumstances.

The Christian faith also speaks of the availability of God's grace in reconciliation. Even marital unfaithfulness can be forgiven and should not lead inevitably to divorce. Those

divorced for reasons not sanctioned by scripture should be treated with compassion. Christ himself set the example of hating the sin but loving the sinner. If they come to penitence then the church should assure them of forgiveness and may also ask God's blessing on their de facto marriage. But the church teaches that true penitence means not mere sorrow, but turning to Christ.

Jesus is not a killjoy. Marriage as a lifelong, exclusive commitment is God's provision for the welfare of human kind: husband, wife, children and society. Hence the church is compassionate in seeking to uphold the institution. "Easy" divorce undermines it and weakens the resolve of couples to work through their difficulties. Western society is suffering the result of ignoring the word of God, spoken in love.

The author is Rector of Hawkwell, Essex and a member of the General Synod.

Bad news for the federalists is good news for Britain

### Bad news for the federalists is good news for Britain

There is no end to the good news these days. The wrist aches from opening the champagne. After glorious Black Wednesday and the majestic German opt-out from Maastricht, now the Swiss are playing Santa. And Edinburgh this weekend offers seasonal cheer unconfined.

Let me explain. Go back just three months to early September. What would have been your political dreams for the rest of 1992? The list would have embraced the following: uncon-

SIMON JENKINS

pling sterling from the mark; a swift two-point cut in interest rates; an expansionist autumn statement "with added infrastructure"; French farm riots indicating a rescue of the vital Gatt round; a pause on Maastricht while Europe's voters, not their leaders, decide what they really want of Brussels; this goal best served by the French and the Germans redefining Maastricht in their own way; and, as a special Christmas treat, a gesture that the EC has no monopoly on wealth from some impeccably rich Europeans, say the Swiss/German cantons.

Such might have been mere dreams. But every one has come true. And come true with three weeks in hand for that extra secret wish, a cabinet reshuffle. Has the turkey ever looked fatter, the tree ever more laden? As Tiny Tim said with tears in his eyes, "God bless us every one."

But what of Tiny Major? Our whey-faced prime minister seems to live in a perpetual Valley of the Grim. This week he completed a humiliating pilgrimage of woe round the capitals of Europe, trying to salvage some dignity for his inflated "presidency of Europe". His spokesmen could be heard wailing from the windows of Downing Street. Their task was awful. Edinburgh will be a catastrophe. I know comparisons are odious, but a recent occupant would have marched out of No 10, kicked a BBC reporter in the crutch, knifed a tabloid editor and shouted "Rejoice, rejoice!"

Appeasement never works in diplomacy. In the past fort-

night, the German parliament declared itself no longer bound by Maastricht's central construct, economic union. The French have promised to fight tooth and nail any move on trade or farm prices. On Monday night they even sought to abandon the Gatt round. A Brussels official said it was "vital that France is not cornered". Really? Imagine him saying that France is not cornered. The so-called "good Europeans" are looking to their own.

The Edinburgh summit could yet prove a turning point. Provided it is a failure, it could end the fantasies and doublethink that have sabotaged free trade ever since the Treaty of Rome in 1957. It could expose the divergent self-interests of Europe's states and enable each to be tackled in turn. There may once have been purchase in sweeping them under the carpet, but no longer.

So what are the key "failures" to watch for in Edinburgh?

They are four in number. The first is the EC budget. This should be cut as the only sure way of controlling the Brussels pork barrel and pushing funds down to national governments. Yet Mr Major is conceding a rise to appease the four "cohesion fund" recipients, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland, who want to double their subsidy by 1999. Jacques Delors wants a 30 per cent (real) increase in EC taxes by 1997, a demand now slightly reduced.

Mr Major is ready to concede a rise from £54 billion to £60.5 billion by 1999, but this is in the hope of keeping Britain's own subsidy, the £2 billion budget rebate. With luck this will not be enough for a deal. "Success" would be a disaster for Europe's taxpayers.

Second is Denmark. Here a cocktail of Maastricht opt-outs and protocols is proposed so that the Danes can avoid moves towards closer economic and political union. But Britain's latest com-

promise, designed to suit the pseudo-federalists in Germany or France, will not suit the Danish opposition enough for a second referendum. "Failure" could throw Maastricht into the melting pot until the 1996 intergovernmental conference. That would be splendid.

Subsidiarity is third. Everybody is now said to be in favour of cutting Brussels down to size. Only a few mean it, including the British who have proposed scrapping 71 EC laws and regulations. M Delors has hit back with just 24, such as summer time, tobacco advertising and zoos. Maastricht's famous subsidiarity clause 3b, hailed by Douglas Hurd as the "greenest ever move to decentralisation" is regarded by lawyers as wholly empty. Another clause gives the EC power to override it, even "outside its exclusive competence", if anything "by reason of scale or

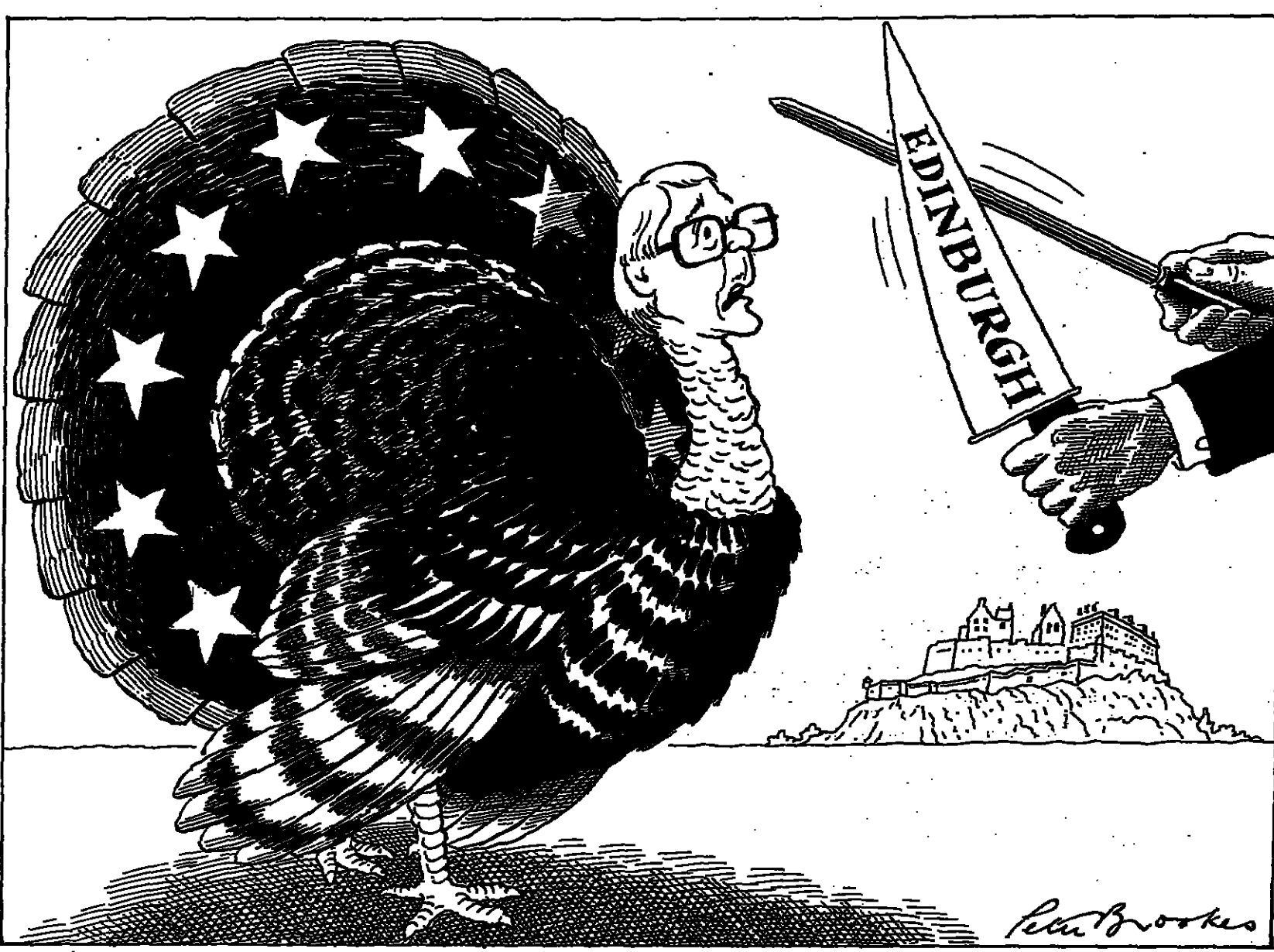
effects... can be better achieved" by the Community. If subsidiarity means scrapping only M Delors's token 24 directives, it is meaningless. If Edinburgh accepts a subsidiarity protocol to Maastricht that is within the terms of the treaty, it will be equally meaningless. Pray for a failure here.

Fourth is Macedonia. Yugoslavia was to be the test of EC political co-operation, with visions of Charlemagne's army reborn and marching south to sort out the Balkans. At the Lisbon summit, the Greeks demanded that the EC not recognise Macedonia at least under that name (political correctness demands that the "cohesion countries" get what they want). If Edinburgh goes back on that deal and recognises Macedonia, Greece may storm out. If Edinburgh stands by Lisbon, the EC's shaky status as Yugoslav peacekeeper is undermined. A likely third option is not to talk about Yugoslavia at

all, even about refugees. This would at least puncture the pretence that the EC has some common interest in Yugoslavia.

All four failures should help strip away the flim that surrounds the Community at present. There is no two-speed Europe, but a multispeed one. The north is hugely subsidising the south. The mark zone worries over inflation and immigration, the French and Belgians worry over protecting their farmers, the British and the Danes worry over federalism. The collapse of the ERM showed the futility of imposing fixed "speeds" on divergent economies and politics. It showed the need for pragmatism, for co-operation appropriate to realistic goals.

One such goal this winter was supposed to be the single European market. I wonder why that is not on the Edinburgh agenda? But who goes looking for bad news when there is so much good around?



### A verse to swear by

THE RISE and rise of Bill Clinton has been compared by many to that of the 35th president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, and Clinton is doing little to discourage the suggestions of Camelot revisited. For his inauguration in Washington next month the president-elect has asked Maya Angelou to compose a poem to be read at the swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol.

The last poet to be asked to perform such a function was Robert Frost, who, 32 years ago, read *The Gift Outright* to a rapt audience when JFK took office. Angelou remembers the occasion well and news of her inclusion in the most public event of Clinton's historic week is only just sinking in.

It is fitting that he asks a woman, a black woman, to write a poem about the tenor of the times," she says. "It is probably fitting that a black woman try to speak of the alienation, the abandonment and the hope of healing those afflictions which have befallen all Americans."

Angelou, a professor at Wake Forest University, was born in St Louis and brought up in Stamps, Arkansas, 25 miles from Clinton's birthplace, and the president-elect has been a fan for many years. She is saying little about the theme for the inaugural poem, "I don't know the poem yet, but I can feel it in me," she says mystically.

She will no doubt look to Frost's effort for inspiration: *The land was ours before we were the land's She was our land more than a hundred years Before we were her people. She was ours In Massachusetts, in Virginia But we were England's, still Colonials. Possessing what we still were unpossessed by, Possessed by what we now no more possessed. But if Clinton is as set on the special relationship with Britain he suggests, she might do better to concentrate on a different topic.*

Party line AFTER sustaining a barrage of press criticism over the last three months, Norman Lamont has



## DIARY

wreaked his revenge. The Chancellor has drastically slimmed down the guest list for his traditional Christmas drinks party for the press at Number 11 Downing Street.

Last year more than 80 economic and political correspondents crowded into one of the elegant drawing rooms, but only 60 invitations have been sent this year. All the treasury ministers have been asked to attend the 90-minute function at which Rosemary Lamont will play hostess. John Major is also expected to pop into the reception. The Treasury will pick up the bill.

A suggestion to the Chancellor by one of his aides that he serve Bricot champagne was initially received enthusiastically, but on reflection, he has decided against it. "He has never bought Bricot champagne and

does not intend to start now," says one of his team. While the economic correspondents will be out in force next Wednesday, the number of political reporters has been reduced. The Chancellor told one aide: "With my view of the press at the moment I think we should hold the party in a broom cupboard."

Image consultants in Atlanta are already seeking a suitably pithy slogan for the city which is hosting the next Olympics. Nothing catchy has yet emerged but one academic has suggested: "Atlanta: What a quarter of a million confederate soldiers died to prevent."

is not the only MP who had a harrowing weekend. Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP, is still recovering from a calamitous three days.

The trouble started when Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, took a group of his constituents and their children ice-skating. Within minutes one mother was stretched off with a broken leg. Shortly afterwards Hughes was in a heap on the ice.

The mother was taken to St Mary's Hospital and Hughes staggered off to Guy's. "She is in plaster from knee to ankle," moans Hughes, "and I badly injured my back. They suspect a broken rib."

He eventually arrived home exhausted and sore on Sunday night only to discover he had been burgled. But even then the disasters were not over. On Monday morning he limped into his Triumph Toledo car. Within seconds of revving up someone stepped out from the pavement in front of him and he skidded into the kerb.

"The car is in the garage being fixed. I don't think I am going to set foot out the house again this week," says the hapless Hughes. Truly a dies festus horribilis.

### Time, gentlemen

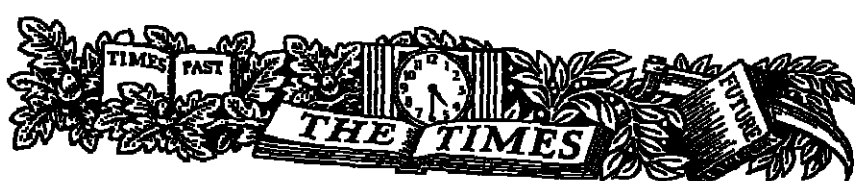
JOHN B. Keane is giving up the day job. The Irish playwright, author of *The Field*, *Big Maggie* and *The Man From Clare*, is closing his pub.

We've all got to be out by St Patrick's day



Keane's in Listowel, co. Kerry. Keane says he needs a break in time to watch the next St Patrick's day parade in Dublin. But he says the locals will be as much of him as ever — in the surrounding pubs. "I have a lot of drinking to do, a lot of feuding to do, a lot of football matches to watch and a lot of tales to be telling to more boys and girls roundabout."





## GENTLE GIANT

America needs allies for the long haul in Somalia

Despite suggestions to the contrary, there is nothing ill-defined or ambiguous about America's stated purposes in Somalia. With the full support of president-elect Bill Clinton, President Bush ordered the deployment of American forces because without immediate relief, up to a quarter of a million Somalis could be dead by the New Year, and perhaps a million more in months to come.

That relief, it has been abundantly clear for months, was not going to reach them unless order was forcibly restored and a "secure environment" created for aid operations. America, said Mr Bush, could not right the world's wrongs, but American involvement was essential: no other country had the capacity to land up to 28,000 men with the requisite speed and firepower to dominate Somalia's warring clans and freelance teenage extortionists.

He is right. But the benefits of this novel experiment in the use of American force must outlast the withdrawal of US troops if the mission is to succeed in its humanitarian aims. The definition of success is that lives must not be saved only to be lost next year: armed mayhem must not be temporarily suppressed, only to take hold again when the Americans withdraw.

Mr Bush intends America's role to be that of "catalyst": his military chief, Colin Powell, who has likened the operation to sending in the cavalry, hopes that the cavalry can start handing over to UN sheriffs within a month. Washington insists that it has no business with any eventual political settlement; that is work for the UN. These careful self-imposed limits on American intervention are politically well judged. The practicalities may turn out more complex.

Mr Bush has done his best to minimise the risks of a lengthy American military involvement. With an energy recalling his successful mobilisation of an international coalition against Iraq, he has taken care to see that America is in good company. He has the unanimous backing of the UN Security Council, persuading even China to suspend its rooted suspicion of armed intervention. Yesterday Russia indicated that it may join a dozen countries which are either part of the US operation or ready to contribute to the UN peacekeeping force to which America wants to hand over.

But UN peacekeepers will not be equipped to disarm Somalia's clans and teenage gangs, or find and destroy heavy weapons hidden in the bush. Without rounding up every Kalashnikov in the country, Operation Restore Hope will have to do more than deliver food and medicine: it must render Somalia policeable. Mr Bush's suggestion that American forces might have withdrawn by January 20, inauguration day, may be no more than a bow to his successor: it should not become an inflexible deadline.

Beyond the immediate prevention of starvation, the broader purpose of America's mission is to show that force can be used, under the UN umbrella, to help non-white, Muslim people, and not just where vital American interests are at stake. In this sense, it is an important test of international determination to use the opportunities created by the end of the Cold War.

Lack of American staying power could rebound badly on Washington. Its readiness to rush into Somalia would then seem to have been like a feint, to compensate for its reluctance to douse the far fiercer fires in Bosnia. To the incoming American president, an ambiguous outcome in the Horn could serve as deterrent to action which may be needed to avert the danger of widening war in southern Europe. But America is most likely to stay the course if Washington is convinced that the responsibility for success is being shared. Other governments must accept the division of labour implicit in Washington's strategy, and start work with the UN on policing and the still longer haul of reconstruction. They have every interest in ensuring that America does not regret its decision to play the role of gentle giant.

## TREASURY TERRIERS

The knights of the economy need their new internal opposition

Postwar history is punctuated with attempts by politicians to curb the power of the Treasury. Spending ministers plan assaults on the machine that constrains their grand plans. Treasury ministers complain of being sucked, however hard they resist, into the prevailing economic orthodoxy. Whenever an institution has been set up as a countervailing force, the Treasury has always won. The Department of Economic Affairs lasted just five years and never won the argument. The National Economic Development Council was usually ignored and finally dismantled. The Treasury's new panel of economic advisers should beware of suffering a similar fate.

The panel deserves a decent chance. The debates of the past few months have shown that ministers ought to be exposed to more economic viewpoints. Politicians should be given the tools to challenge their officials' orthodoxy with greater confidence. Had the advisers been in place earlier this year, it might have been harder for the government to ridicule its critics as "quack doctors selling miracle cures". Three of the most prominent quack doctors opposed to the obsessive defence of sterling are now on the panel.

Would the Chancellor have claimed that "there is no alternative" to membership of the exchange-rate mechanism and insisted that devaluation would lead to higher interest rates? Long before Black Wednesday, four of the seven panel members were claiming that withdrawal from the ERM would allow interest rates to be sharply reduced.

It is to the government's credit that the advisers form such a varied group. Three members — David Currie of the London Business School, Andrew Britton of the

National Institute of Economic and Social Research and Andrew Sentance of the Confederation of British Industry — strongly backed ERM membership and have tended to support the Treasury.

But another three have been among the most outspoken critics of the Treasury. Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research and Patrick Minford of Liverpool University have shown a far better understanding of the housing market and the impact of debt deflation than anybody in the Treasury. Along with Wynne Godley of Cambridge, all three opposed ERM membership. Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs advised the last Labour government and has a useful understanding of financial markets.

The Treasury undoubtedly felt tempted to treat the panel meetings as a four-monthly ordeal that has to be endured to keep its master sweet. Yet appointment to the panel will give the three or four dissenters a credibility they lacked when they were simply writing articles or letters to the newspapers. Their views could give ammunition to a free-thinking Chancellor, who would no longer feel like a lone dissenter facing the ranks of Treasury orthodoxy.

Doubtless some ministers will recall with horror the days of the internal feuding between Nigel Lawson and Alan Walters. But, as Mr Walters pointed out in his review of Lord Lawson's book in this newspaper, the real trouble in the late 1980s was not that the Chancellor and the prime minister's adviser disagreed. It was that Lord Lawson refused ever to face up to Mr Walters' views and defend his own opinions, even in private. The new panel may force such healthy discussion to take place.

## SNOWBALLING SPORTS

A small prang has become essential to the art of skiing

The ski season starts on Saturday. Something like 600,000 Britons are limbering up for the slopes by grunting to touch their toes in the bathroom, buying the new fashions for apres-ski, and grumbling about an increase of 20 per cent in premiums to insure themselves against the accidents that skiing flesh is heir to. A survey published yesterday predicts that 35 out of every 1000 British skiers who are heading for the pistes will have an accident. This makes skiing sound as though it has become as dangerous a sport as sky-diving or motor racing.

Matters are not as bad as they sound, however. There has been a veritable snow change in skiing as a sport over the past generation. The Ski Club of Great Britain and the winter sports insurers are confident that skiing injuries are proportionately fewer and less serious than a generation ago, even though there were no comparable surveys then. Only about 10,000 Britons went skiing in those winters, and not many insured themselves against accidents.

In the past 30 years what was once a minority eccentricity for rich Alpinists has become a mass industry. The new hardware of shape-moulded skis and rigid plastic boots, with thick padding and instant release bindings, has made skiing safer as well as their manufacturers rich. Long ago, when skis were made of metal and wood, and boots were leather and laced up through eyelets, "lower limb breakage" was known as the

skiing injury. New technology has moved skiing injury up the body. The most common mishap now is torn knee ligaments caused by falling backwards, followed by shoulder and head contusions from collision with ice or rock or another body determined to break a leg, though not its own.

It is not practical to encase the modern skier cap-a-pie in a carapace of armour, because it reduces the flexibility of the knees that drive the machine. Skiing is always going to be more risky than chess. But the insurance premiums are up this year not because of injury increases but to cover last year's losses caused by cancellations. Because of ski-lifts, today's skiers spend far more time actually sliding than their parents (who had to climb back up), and injuries per ski-meetre are declared by the professionals (who have an interest in saying so) to be declining in number and severity.

Most of them happen on the nursery slopes, which are more congested and have a high proportion of slippers and fallers, menaces on ski boards, and sportsmen and women who are not in control of their careers. Only one in a 1000 of Britain's injured skiers these days ends up in a plaster cast, the cartoon cliché of winter sports. A minor skiing injury has become part of the sport, like the suntan in winter and the holiday snaps. It is part of the kudos and status of the sliding game. And very few indeed die, outside avalanches.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Finance and trade seen as key to future of Hong Kong

From Mr Robert Fell

Sir, I write to support the timely letter from Sir Percy Cradock (December 1). Mr Chris Patten has chosen to begin his crucial stint as governor with the wrong agenda and has compounded his error by the manner of its initiation. Two points must be kept at the top of any British brief on Hong Kong.

The 1984 agreement is the settled basis for the future. There is no political desire or will in Westminster to reopen that negotiation. In any case, it is a good agreement and, linking with China's modernisation programme of 1978, it is the basis for Hong Kong's unparalleled prosperity which Mr Patten inherited.

Second, however well Mr Patten's speeches are received outside Hong Kong, the immigration doors are not going to widen any further. The six million transient subjects of Her Majesty will remain the citizens of Hong Kong after 1997. Their continued well-being depends on maintaining the development of China, who will be the sovereign power and lender of last resort long after Mr Patten has left.

The financing of any large project will extend well beyond the remaining four-and-a-half years for which we are the ultimate bankers. The budget to be presented by Mr Patten in three months' time will, for instance, be based on estimates extending to 1998.

If Mr Patten will contemplate the future of the 80,000 children who will be born in his first year and entering primary school in his last, he should get the point.

I have long advocated the complete transparency of financial matters in this transition period. This should have been the first policy objective. Political changes which may be beneficial could come in their proper place, when economic trust and full co-operation have been achieved.

Fortunately China is likely to achieve in the present decade the modernisation which Japan achieved in the last 30 years of the Victorian era. The policy of the Governor of Hong Kong must be to assist and not to undermine this wholly beneficial achievement.

Yours faithfully,  
R. FELL  
(Chief Executive, Hong Kong Stock Exchange, 1987-89),  
19 Guildown Avenue,  
Guildford, Surrey,  
December 4.

From Mr William Knight

Sir, "They will never destroy the golden goose" is the comment of many Westerners when contemplating the extent to which China will go in its dealings with Hong Kong. That argument might prevail if Hong Kong were China's only effective window on the world, but that is no longer the case.

Shanghai, as one example, is nearer by air to London, New York or Tokyo than Hong Kong and its population is more than twice that of Hong Kong. It is rapidly forging ahead as a commercial centre. Skills learnt in Hong Kong today are easily transferable to other parts of China.

British politicians, symbols of fading colonial power, would do well to forget about Western-style democracy in Hong Kong. It does not suit China at present, nor does it suit some other parts of South East Asia where economic development and discipline are perceived as worthy ideals.

China can squeeze Hong Kong (and British business). If a painful squeeze caused Hong Kong to run

down, businessmen might look to Chinese centres for more interesting long-term potential. With property prices likely then to fall in Hong Kong, there could be population movements into the newer development areas of China. This would suit China's economic development.

If the status quo in Hong Kong is maintained the colony is likely to be left in peace, which must be good for its people and for British interests, but its monopoly position as a China window has gone forever.

For anyone who admires Hong Kong and wants it to remain a key business centre for China, not fade away to become the modern equivalent of, say, Venice, realism must prevail.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM KNIGHT,  
William Knight Associates  
(Development finance consultancy),  
23 St James's Square, SW1,  
December 7.

From Mr Derek Davies

Sir, The industrial and mercantile community of Hong Kong, who assure us they "can do business with China", always undervalued the role of the rule of law, however ineptly and corruptly it has been implemented in Hong Kong. The Joint Declaration promised an independent judiciary and that the Privy Council would be replaced by a Supreme Court in Hong Kong.

Since then Peking has fixed matters so that post-1997 judges will be its men, visiting judges from overseas will have a sharply reduced role and the so-called Supreme Court will be subject to review by the standing committee of China's National People's Congress.

Senior Chinese spokesmen have stated that the press will be free, as promised, after 1997, as long as it publishes nothing contrary to China's national interest. So Hong Kong affairs will be reported much as Shanghai's have been since 1949, much as Tibet's are today. Only public challenges would have inspired any confidence, and Sir Percy Cradock eschewed open breaches. So much for his "quiet but tenacious negotiation".

London's policies have weakened Chris Patten's stance. The Hong Kong people responded to his proposals. Successive nationality Acts and pusillanimity by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office vis-à-vis Peking have injured them to betrayal: but surely some remaining sense of British honour should at least accord them a chance.

Yours sincerely,  
DEREK DAVIES  
(Editor, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, 1964-89),  
Mas d'Avant, 1031 Route de Grasse,  
Tourettes-sur-Loup,  
Alpes Maritimes, France,  
December 5.

From Lord Willoughby de Broke

Sir, Mr Ian Gracie's letter (December 4) contains a distasteful blend of arrogance and cynicism: arrogance in his assumption that the people of Hong Kong and their elected representatives should not be consulted in the future of Hong Kong; cynicism in his implicit suggestion that we should sacrifice Hong Kong in the interests of our trade with China.

Some of Mr Patten's proposals — and they remain only proposals — have been accepted by the Legislative Council and by the Hong Kong people, as measured in recent opinion polls; others remain to be debated. Are those whose future will be most

affected not best qualified to decide how that future should be shaped?

Yours faithfully,  
WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE,  
Ditchford Farm,  
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire,  
December 4.

From Legislative Councillor Christine Loh

Sir, For the past three years, essentially since the Tiananmen massacre, China has been reneging systematically on the commitment which it made in the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, that it would "give its co-operation" to British administration of Hong Kong until 1997.

By endorsing such a proposition Sir Percy does a disservice to his own past achievements. The Joint Declaration was an imaginative document which reflected well upon the governments and negotiators who produced it. It was cautiously welcomed in Hong Kong in 1984 primarily because it made a number of important and unambiguous pledges about Hong Kong's future, including those of a "high degree of autonomy" from the central government in Peking, and a "legislature constituted by elections" without any restriction upon the form of those elections.

The Patten proposals are consistent with the letter and spirit of the Joint Declaration. They are, if anything, a very modest and belated contribution to the democratisation of a society which is more than ready to assume the responsibilities of that process.

If China declines to accept the Patten proposals it can only be because China is determined to rule Hong Kong entirely as it pleases. If such is China's attitude Hong Kong has nothing to gain by appeasement. Each British or Hong Kong concession will be overtaken by a further Chinese demand, and the process will have no end.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTINE LOH,  
Legislative Council of Hong Kong,  
8 Jackson Road, Hong Kong,  
December 4.

From Sir Michael Pike

Sir, There may be many different views on whether Mr Chris Patten is right to press for a modest expansion, well within the framework of the Anglo-Chinese Joint Declaration, of the democratic choices available to the people of Hong Kong before 1997.

The fact nevertheless remains that he, and therefore Her Majesty's government, are now committed to these proposals. To withdraw them now would constitute a clear defeat for Britain and a tragedy for those millions of people in Hong Kong who want more freedom to participate in the decisions which rule their lives.

Let all men and women of good will in Britain, in Hong Kong and elsewhere in the world therefore stand firm behind the governor. Given our united backing, the Chinese government will see the unwisdom of being drawn into a confrontation in which China would ultimately have the most to lose and the least to gain.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL PIKE,  
The Travellers' Club,  
106 Pall Mall, SW1,  
December 4.

From Mr András Schiff

Sir, It was most depressing to read Norman Lebrecht's article (Weekend, November 28) on the "art" of classical conductors. It is a very vulgar piece of writing, insulting several of today's conductors as well as real giants of the past, like Furtwängler and Klemperer.

This is bad taste at its worst, so typical of our times. Mr Lebrecht and others probably want to win new friends to classical music with such vulgarities they distress the ones who really care about it.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDRÁS SCHIFF,  
9 Junction Mews, W2.

From Mr G. Harrop

Sir, Janet Daley (article, December 1) weaves a web of sophisticated argument around a problem which does not exist. In her discussion of Mr Lamont's letting of his own house she suggests that "when a politician's competence is called into question by public controversy, he is entitled to use the very power and resources of his position to help snuff out that controversy".

The Chancellor seems to have done what any prudent and sensible person would do: he employed an estate agent to find him a tenant and the agent did so.

Yours faithfully,  
G. HARRAP,  
17 Springfield Crescent,  
Sherborne, Dorset.

From Mr Geoffrey Cutting

Sir, Why did Norman Lamont have to resort to complicated repossession

### Protecting drug addicts in custody

From Dr Neville Davis

Sir, The death of Mr Graham Rawlinson on remand in Grimsby and the conviction of two police surgeons for his manslaughter (report, December 3) have highlighted the flaw in Department of Health guidelines on the treatment of drug addicts which I, several senior police surgeons and the chief medical officer of the Metropolitan Police discussed in a letter to you on February 10. The particular issue was the recommendation by the department's working party that opiate addicts should be given methadone routinely while in police custody.

The management of addicts passing through police cells and of Home Office prisoners who may spend rather more time in police stations will be discussed next month at a meeting of the clinical forensic medicine section of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Metropolitan and City group of the Association of Police Surgeons.

When individuals are deprived of their liberty their medical care must be appropriate and of high quality. The current situation is muddled and confused.

This is a task that merits no delay, otherwise we may well be faced with more avoidable deaths.

Yours sincerely,  
NEVILLE DAVIS  
(President, clinical forensic medicine section, Royal Society of Medicine, 1987-9),  
Redroofs, Windmill Lane,  
Arkle, Hertfordshire,  
December 7.

### Threat to Nuba people

From Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison and others

Sir, We wish to express our concern at the alarming reports emerging from the Nuba Hills in southern Kordofan, Sudan, in spite of the official ban on information. These suggest that what is occurring is not, as the Sudanese government asserts, simply a military operation against SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) rebel forces in the area, nor even punitive action against villagers suspected of siding with rebels, but a concerted campaign to eradicate the Nuba as a people, leaving their lands to be taken over by other groups more acceptable to General al-Bashir's regime.

The Nuba, like the southern Sudanese, differ from the dominant Arab-Islamic culture, though they include many Muslims (about 40 per cent), as well as a similar proportion of Christians. They have long been treated with suspicion by successive regimes, and have suffered depredations by the military, massacres, and arbitrary arrests, especially of their educated people.

Most recently, 18 Nuba, including lawyers and civil servants, were arrested in Khartoum. Even more alarming are reports that thousands of Nuba (40,000 already by September), after seeing their villages destroyed, are being forcibly trucked to camps in northern Kordofan, under horrifying conditions.

Official sources have outlined a plan to separate out the "productive" — the young men — for the purpose of sending them to work on large commercial farms. There they will be virtually slave labour. The "unproductive" — the women, children and old people — are to be distributed among "hospitable" northern Sudanese families, where they will inevitably become domestic chattels.

If this policy continues it will mean the end of the Nuba.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON  
(President, Survival International),  
FAROUK ABU EISA,  
AMIN MEKKI MEDANI,  
ABDULLAH A. al-NAIM,  
DAVID ASTOR,  
COLIN LEGUM,  
c/o Survival International,  
310 Edgware Road, W2,  
December 3.

### A step forward

From Mrs Ursula Cook

Sir, With reference to Professor Bevan's letter (December 7) on identification of babies, my elder son was born in Los Angeles nearly 18 years ago and his footprint was taken within moments of birth in front of my eyes for identification purposes only. Are we really that much behind America?

Yours sincerely,  
URSULA COOK,  
Lower Farm House,  
Hambleton, Surrey,  
December 7.

### The young idea

From Mrs Lauretta Tomlinson

Sir, Craig Brown ("The way it isn't", November 26) suggests motorway service stations might make children's names. I have affectionately called my own daughter (Emilia, shortened to Milly) South Mimmis for many years after regularly passing that particular service station. I became known in my turn as South Mimmis.

Yours sincerely,  
LAURETTA TOMLINSON,  
Head's House,  
Lancing College, Sussex.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

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this year

Fish farm  
accused  
negligence

accidents  
in the snow







# RICHARD HUGHES

the abolition of the right of Courts-martial to inflict capital punishment. Labour delegates who have returned from the provinces report that their proposal for a general strike to be declared in January meets with approval everywhere.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

ODESSA, DEC. 7.

Everything is at a standstill and business is paralysed for want of means of communication. The strike epidemic is spreading to the oddest circles and is infecting chambermaids, scullions and house porters.

Judging from the policy of the local papers, which in their new found liberty surpass themselves, all classes are to be incited to bay the moon. The honest endeavours of the progressives will be thwarted by the circulars of the extremists which promise the impossible or urge the ignorant classes to demand











# TEMPUS

### The pre-tax line went ahead

**On target:** Allen Yurko, left, managing director of Siebe, and Barrie Stephens, the chairman, yesterday

## Siebe

Now, he says his prayers for a weaker pound twice a day, so that Siebe can enjoy the edge that a competitive currency brings to companies that are significant exporters. The non-UK element of group sales is 91.3 per cent, while

Some divisions were hurt more than others by the recession, but there were improvements in profitability and group net cash flow remained strong. Interim cash flow at £34.2 million (£36.3 million) runs home the point Siebe makes about very tight control of working capital at all levels of the business.

Trading profits of £107.7 million (£108.9 million) were achieved on a turnover that fell from £812.9 million to

**£757.3 million.** Gearing was again reduced – from 88.8 per cent a year ago to 68.7 per cent – with interest cover at 3.9 times.

Siebe is heading towards its goal of gearing in the 50 per cent region, which it hopes to achieve in 1993 by the further control of costs and by faster profits generation. In 1992 capitalised £14 million of research costs in the interim period while charging associated depreciation of £1.1 million.

The £380 million Foxboro acquisition in 1990 continued

## East Midlands

**EAST Midlands Electricity** showed the strength of its core business yesterday with a 23 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £30 million on turnover up 3.6 per cent to £681.5 million.

The results reflect the strength of the East Midlands region, with its stable domestic market, high proportion cost-effective Economy Sew customers and good mix heavy and light industry. The inevitable concern is over the company's diversification strategy and worry that the £40 million spent over the past 18 months on moves in security, through Ambassador, and into contracting with Thomas Robinson, may have been too high.

Non-core businesses made a loss of around £2 million in the half-year, not substantially given the expectations of a 10 per cent full-year profit increase for East Midlands as a whole. Hoare Govett is looking for £170 million compared with £150 million last year. The yield is 6.3 per cent on a prospective 19.05p total dividend for the year, above average for the sector. Given an interim dividend increase of 12 per cent to 5.72p and an anticipated full-year rise to around the same level, the shares should be held.

## Charter Consolidated will buy to lift earnings

**CHARTER Consolidated**, the industrial group with a 38.4 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey, and itself 36 per cent owned by Mitsui, is determined to restore earnings growth over the recession breaks, Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive, says. Operating profits in the six months ended September rose from £30.2 million to £31.3 million, but lower interest income on the group's still healthy cash balances helped clip pre-tax profits from £38.5 million to £37.1 million. Net earnings were 21.8p (22.4p) a share, while the interim dividend is unchanged at 7p.

Charter yesterday announced a series of deals by Pandrol International, its wholly owned subsidiary, with French companies that further strengthens its rail fastenings interests. Charter says it will boost earnings by acquisition and by tight management. The shares rose 3p to 553p.

NEWS Corporation Limited is making an offer to redeem the outstanding preferred stock of two of its subsidiaries. News Preferred Finance Inc and NewsCorp Preference Ltd., at a price equivalent to 107.65 per cent of their liquidation value. The offer ends on January 4, 1993. Shareholders who elect to reject the offer may continue to hold the preferred stock though rights to dividend payments and certain other entitlements will cease after January 4. The preferred stock may also be exchanged on the basis of 101.859 ordinary shares of News Corporation for each share of preferred stock.

## Europcopy cuts payout

EUROPEAN expansion helped BTP, the specialist chemicals and industrial group, to buck the depressed trend with a 15 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £10.1 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose 20 per cent to £99 million, boosted by a full contribution from French acquisitions. The interim dividend is 3.25p (3.1p). BTP shares advanced 11p to 218p.

[illegible]



# Large UK gas users among hardest hit by price increases

BY ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LARGE gas consumers in Britain experienced the second highest price increase in a study of ten countries during 1992, when companies in many countries saw their gas bills fall, according to a study by National Utility Services.

On average, British Gas customers buying fuel on firm contracts experienced a 4.2 per cent rise in prices. NUS disclosed, industrial and commercial gas users in Germany, meantime, saw prices fall 22 per cent. French companies also benefited from gas price cuts, while charges in Belgium fell 10 per cent.

Overall, British Gas firm contract charges now leave Britain sixth from the top of an international league table.

Swedish companies paid most for their gas, with a typical price of 74.5p a therm. Italy, at 59.2p a therm, was pushed into second place. Industrial gas prices in France, Germany and Belgium were all higher than Britain, at 34.8p a therm.

Businesses in Holland, Australia, the United States and Canada all benefited from cheaper fuel. However, because the survey findings were based on British Gas's published tariffs, they provide no evidence of the pricing policies of some 30 rival

■ British Gas is down to 50 per cent market share in fixed supplies to large companies. Britain fared badly in an international survey of gas prices

companies now competing to supply bulk gas to business users in Britain.

According to Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, rivals are now supplying nearly 50 per cent of firm contract gas sold in Britain.

Mr Brown yesterday hit back at Ofgas, the industry regulator, which is pressing his privatised gas company to accept a rate of return of between 2.5 per cent and 5 per cent on the money invested in its pipeline system.

In a speech to a London conference, Mr Brown said British Gas had been forced to seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into the company's activities and the market for gas in the United Kingdom.

He said that "piecemeal regulation, by different regulators, with different objectives, seriously threatened our ability to finance the future development of the UK gas supply system". British Gas insists it needs to earn a 6.7 per cent rate of return on existing pipeline assets, and 10.7 per cent to justify new investments.

Having welcomed the principle of free competition to sell gas, Mr Brown and his colleagues are now lobbying hard to be released from the obligation to publish tariffs.

Many customers would like to return to individual negotiation, he said. "Schedules run counter to the spirit of a free market. Once fully effective competition has been established, the schedules will have done their work, and can be abolished."

Mr Brown said phased removal of tariff schedules would enable prices to reflect more accurately both the cost of gas and movements in the price of competing fuels.

The NUS study suggested that bulk gas prices in Germany had fallen because they were linked to oil prices, which had fallen sharply in the wake of the Gulf war.

Mr Brown revealed that competitors are now capturing growing numbers of business customers in the wake of a government decision to lower the threshold of competition to 2,500 therms of gas a year.



## Carlton calls for easier franchise rules

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE government must relax the rules governing the television industry to allow ITV contractors in the next franchise round to consolidate in order to meet the threat of competition from satellite and cable services, according to Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications.

Carlton will operate the London weekday franchise and owns 20 per cent of Central Independent Television, another of the franchise-holders. The company also owns 18 per cent of a consortium that has bid suc-

cessfully to take over Independent Television News.

Mr Green was reporting a rise in pre-tax profits from £88.8 million to £102.3 million in the year to end September. A 10.3p final dividend raises the total to 17p from 15.5p.

Carlton retains £108 million cash in the bank and remains cautious, but Mr Green said he looked forward to an eventful 1993 with some optimism. He said the success and durability of the ITV network depended on its ability to adapt to competition, coming

increasingly from satellite and cable companies.

"The current regulations in the Broadcasting Act 1990 relating to ownership and mergers inhibit the ability of ITV to compete with other media organisations," he added. Those rules should be relaxed to reinforce the strength of the ITV network.

Carlton believes that some of the winners of the franchise round were forced to bid too high and are therefore not financially viable after the subsequent fall in advertising revenue. Defensive mergers

should therefore be allowed where necessary.

Although the group is playing down suggestions that it might itself then bid for other contractors, this is not being ruled out by market observers.

The strongest performance last year came from video and audio production and distribution. Carlton's Technicolor business is producing 17 million copies of *Beauty and the Beast*, the Disney blockbuster already set to become the best-selling video of all time.

Tempos, page 22

Man with a mission: Alan Bowkett, chief executive, was appointed earlier this year to turn round Berisford International, the property and agri-business group. The group admitted yesterday that "some tidying up remains to be done", but an active acquisition programme to create shareholder value was under way. The company plans to consolidate its shares from 10p nominal to 50p nominal, and yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £22.3 million (£20.5 million loss) for the year ended September 30. Shareholders' funds at year end stood at £84.6 million (£152.9 million) and, again, no dividend is proposed.

## Sturge fortunes stay in sharp decline

BY SARAH BAGNALL

A SEVERE drop in profit commissions, coupled with a fall in interest earnings, has led to a sharp decline in fortunes at Sturge Holdings, the largest Lloyd's underwriting group.

Sturge, which announced a 50 per cent cut in dividends earlier this year, told shareholders that prospects for the next two years were uncertain and that future dividend cuts could not be ruled out.

David Coleridge, Sturge's chairman and until the end of the year chairman of Lloyd's, said that the company was looking at opening its doors to corporate members, initially to provide quota share reinsurance, a system of pre-arranged allocations of reinsurance undertakings within a certain class of business, for its own syndicates.

Profits before tax dropped 12.75 per cent to £7.75 million in the year to end September 1992, reflecting a 58 per cent plunge in profit commissions from £14 million to £5.9 million.

The results follow a 30 per

cent slide in taxable profits at half-way to £2.58 million.

Operating expenses on a like-for-like basis fell 7 per cent and Sturge is reviewing ways of achieving further cuts of 15 per cent. Staff numbers have been slimmed by 175 over the year to 1,550 and more cuts are expected.

Looking ahead two years, Mr Coleridge said that profit commissions would continue their downwards slide before picking up again. Because of Sturge's three-year reporting system the benefits of the 1992 year of account's improved profitability for the market as a whole will not be seen until 1995.

Mr Coleridge said that it was too early to tell what the group's capacity would be for the 1993 year of account, but that it was expected to reflect the general fall in the overall capacity of the market, which he thought would be in a range of £8.5 billion and £8.75 billion compared with £10.2 billion. Sturge traditionally boasts about 10 per cent of the total capacity.

## Vaux writes down value of hotels by a third

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE collapse in the property market has forced Vaux Group, the Sunderland-based brewer, to write down the value of its hotels by about a third, to £230 million, over the past four years.

But Vaux has not revalued its pub estate, which has almost doubled in size over the same period, because it believes average values per pub have not changed dramatically.

The brewer yesterday announced pre-tax profits down from £34.3 million to £30.9 million in the 53 weeks to end October after a sharply higher interest bill. Stripping out property profits and exceptional items, profits before tax are down 3.6 per cent. As a result, said Paul Nicholson, chairman, the final dividend is held at 6.1p, making a total up from 9.2p to 9.35p.

Capital spending continued at £75 million a year because of the expansion of the pub estate and another £15 million spent completing two hotels, but this should fall to £30 million and be covered by cash flow in the current year.

Mr Nicholson said there were some encouraging signs in current trading. Hotel occupancy rates were running 2.9 percentage points ahead in the first eight weeks of the year.

Overall the group and each trading division were ahead of last year during the first eight weeks of 1992-3.

□ The round of pit closures is not expected to hit trading at Mansfield Brewery, the Yorkshire and East Midlands beer maker, Joss Nangle, acting chairman, said. Mansfield was reporting pre-tax profits up from £6.36 million to £6.67 million in the half year to September 26, helped by the purchase of 93 pubs in March. The interim dividend rises from 4p to 4.4p.

## Fimbra fees criticised

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association yesterday faced renewed criticism from members over the cost of professional fees incurred by the association. These almost doubled, totalling £903,712 in the year ending March 1992, up from £460,133 the previous year.

Sir Gordon Downey, Fimbra's chairman, told the annual general meeting that this was partly due to the expense of having to set up trusts to protect assets for clients of member firms that had been suspended. Actuarial valuation of the association's pen-

sion fund and the cost of running the independent arbitration scheme also accounted for part of the extra cost.

Sir Gordon said that legal costs incurred in defending Fimbra against a writ from Pointon York Vos, the professional indemnity insurer, so far amounted to £49,472. FVY claims Fimbra repudiated a contract under which professional indemnity insurance administered by FVY would be compulsory for all members.

Fimbra had a surplus of £2.7 million in the year to March 1992 compared with a deficit of £0.5 million the previous year.

## Ossory plunges to £42m loss

BY JON ASHWORTH

OSSORY Estates, the property investor and developer, is locked in urgent talks with its bankers after crashing £42 million into the red after massive property writedowns.

Sharp falls in the value of the investment portfolio, high borrowings and an inability to let or sell properties have sent net asset value per share tumbling from 79.41p to 19.32p. The company is in breach of its banking covenants and has been unable to reach agreement with its bankers, led by Barclays, over a proposed refinancing.

Ossory described the decline as "a very serious setback" and said strategic errors had occurred. In the second half, it became apparent the group's problems "had been compounded by speculative development activity, cost overruns on certain of these developments and a

level of overhead expenditure inconsistent with the size of the company".


The company is in breach of certain covenants in respect of its banking facilities and urgent action has been required to attempt to regain the confidence and support of its banks. It had hoped to announce that the banks had agreed not to enforce their security under the terms of the loan agreements and to publish details of a proposed reorganisation of banking facilities. This has not been possible in the time available.

Ossory is hopeful that agreement will be reached with the banks and anticipates writing to shareholders shortly. Senior management changes are planned. The company has served notices to terminate the long-term rolling contracts of John Walker, the former chairman

and managing director who remains a director, Farid Gulmohamed, finance director, and Peter Everest, property director. Norman Turner, managing director, is on a three-month rolling contract.

The company made a pre-tax loss of £41.6 million (£7.1 million profit) in the year to end-June. Writedowns on investment properties amounted to £11.1 million, writedowns on development properties reached £15.4 million and £16.1 million was written down in interest in associated undertakings, investments and debtors. There is a loss per share of 53.15p (5.15p earnings). There is no final dividend (0.45p) making a total of 0.15p (0.85p).

The main operating headquarters will be transferred from London to Manchester at the end of the year. The shares slipped 2p to 4p.



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# PILLARS OF STRENGTH

Results for the six months to September 30, 1992	1992 Millions	1991 Millions
Turnover	£157.3	£812.9
Pre-Tax Profit	£80.3	£75.2
Dividends	£12.9	£11.7
Dividends Per Share	£22.50p	3.025p
Earnings Per Share	£0.7p	11.1p



Siebe plc, Saxon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England.



## Shares in Sage leap on results

Shares in Sage Group rose 21p to 455p after the Newcastle-based business and accounting software supplier bucked the gloomy trend with a 33 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £8.85 million in the year to end-September. Turnover, boosted by a full year's contribution from DacSys in America, advanced by 36 per cent to £27.3 million.

The group continued to generate cash, with Sage's year-end cash balance swelling to £7.2 million, up from £1.2 million a year earlier. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 30.9p (25.5p) a share. There is an increased final dividend of 6p (5.35p), giving an improved total of 9.02p (8.05p).

Paul Walker, finance director, will become the group's new chief operating officer and a new finance director will be recruited in due course.

Sage is acquiring Yorkshire Business Forms for an initial £1.05 million.

## RHM deal

Tomkins has acceptances from shareholders accounting for 84.2 per cent of the equity of Ranks Hovis McDougall, the bread and food brands business, in respect of its £935 million offer, including the stake bought by Tomkins during the offer. The ordinary offer, the cash election and the share election have been extended until 3pm on December 21.

## Takeover off

A takeover by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's milk business in Scotland has been blocked by the trade department. Michael Reid, head of the department, said he had accepted recommendations from the move was against the public interest.

# Christmas comes early as shares reverse setback

CHRISTMAS came early for many investors in the Square Mile yesterday as share prices shrugged off an early setback to close with some impressive gains on the day.

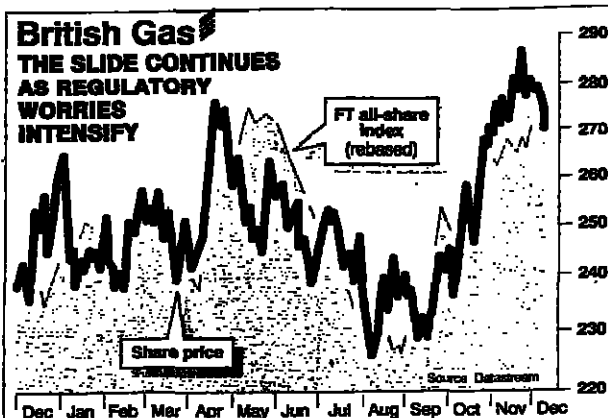
It was a virtual mirror image of Monday's lacklustre performance and helped underline just how thin trading conditions are. The FTSE 100 index wiped out an early fall of almost nine points to finish the session near its best of the day with a rise of 15.3 to 2,769.8.

A total of 605 million shares changed hands, with market-makers still trying to cover short positions in the wake of the equity market's recent record-breaking run. Investors appear reluctant to open fresh positions before the Bundesbank meeting of the Bundesbank. But most seem agreed that a cut in German interest rates is unlikely.

Several large lines of stock went through the market in early business, including 750,000 TI Group, down 7p at 296p, and 750,000 Lasso, 8p lower at 154p.

Evode, the Evostik glue group, which is fighting off an unwanted bid from Wassall, jumped 5p to 96p on talk of a possible counterbid. Williams Holdings has been mentioned as a possible white knight for Evode, but the lack of turnover suggests that at least one market-maker is struggling to cover a short position. Only 531,000 shares had been traded by the close.

BICC began to attract renewed institutional support with a rise of 13p to 300p. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, is believed to have met the company recently and



been impressed by what it was told. Brokers claim there is evidence of a pick-up in some areas and regard the shares as a strong yield play. BICC is also expected to benefit from the proposed increased spending on infrastructure.

British Gas continued to lose ground, worried by this week's recommendation from

that it plans to take over Qantas, the Australian national airline. But BA is still pondering whether to buy a 25 per cent stake in the airline, which it hopes will bolster its global ambitions.

British Aerospace lost an early lead, ending 3p cheaper at 138p, upset by the news that Airbus Industrie, the

The Stock Exchange meets today to pick the new FT-SE 100 index constituents. BET, unchanged at 83p, and Rolls-Royce, 1p cheaper at 101p, are expected to be replaced. On last night's closing capitalisation, it looks as if Royal Insurance, up 5p at 265p, and Standard Chartered, 13p better at 523p, will just pip Asda, 4p firmer at 55p.

Ofgas, the regulatory authority, that it reduce the rate of return on its gas pipeline business. Analysts are becoming increasingly concerned that the government will agree with Ofgas and implement its findings. Regulatory worries also took their toll of BT, down 4p at 399p.

British Airways firmed 4p to 279p after denying claims European aircraft consortium, had lost an order worth £2.3 billion to supply Northwest Airlines, the US airline, with 74 aircraft, including 24 A340 wide-bodied jets. Northwest said it had decided to cancel the order to help stave off serious problems.

Carlton Communications, which takes over the London weekday independent tele-

vision franchise from Thames on January 1, ran into profit-taking, falling 2p to 717p after reporting a healthy rise in full-year figures. Pre-tax profits were 15 per cent higher at £102.3 million. Carlton has already invested £20.6 million in its television subsidiary.

Newcomer Tadpole Technology, the computer software group, went from strength to strength with a rise of 24p to 109p. That compares with Monday's placing price of 65p. The group has just clinched a sizeable contract to supply its computerised work stations to IBM.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, clawed back some of its recent losses, firming 1p to 25p. The proposal by Alan Sugar, the chairman, for a £113 million buy-back is running into increased institutional opposition. The group is now looking to appoint a number of new non-executive directors in order to give shareholders a bigger say, should his offer fail.

There was renewed support for the drinks sector, hoping to benefit from increased spending in the run-up to the festive season. Vaux, up 6p at 216p, cheered analysts by reporting encouraging signs after a drop in pre-tax profits last year. There were also gains for Allied-Lyons, 4p to 643p, Boddington, 9p to 611p, HB Baker, 5p to 388p, Grand Metropolitan, 11p to 435p, Greenall, 7p to 354p, and Whitbread, 3p to 455p. Scottish & Newcastle reflected this week's dividend increase with a rise of 12p to 425p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Dow index struggles to stay positive

New York — Equities were narrowly mixed in slow dealings. After spending the morning locked in an extremely narrow range, the Dow Jones industrial average was showing a meagre increase of 0.54 to 3,146.22.

Jim Benning, a BT Brokerage trader, said: "The market looks like it's trying to catch its breath." He believes that the recent rounds of favourable economic data have equities over-extended.

Shares — Hong Kong — Shares fought back from a morning 90-point slide once it became clear that Chinese and British negotiators were willing to reach each others' views on the colony's future. The Hang Seng index ended the day up 10.61 at 5,202.36.

The broader all-or-none index recouped its morning losses and rose 1.63 to 2,759.8. Brokers said trade lacked direction, with investors sidelined before Friday's Japan quarterly economic survey.

The Nikkei average finished 74.73 points up, or 0.43 per cent, at 17,281.85, with an estimated 180 million shares traded. The Tokyo index rose 4.45 points to 1,304.86.

Frankfurt — Equities sank to their lowest close in more than four weeks, weighed down by the sharply lower dollar and poor 10-month results at Deutsche Bank. The Dax index closed 17.08 points down at 1,508.24.

Sydney — Shares rose across the board. The all-ordinaries index closed 24.2 points up at 1,468.9. (Reuters)

## BRITISH FUNDS

### SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Stock	E
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>			
100%	95%	Paid 6/84	100%
100%	90%	Trms 6/84	100%
101%-	90%	Trms 10/84	101%
100%	100%	Trms 12/84	100%
107%	103%	Trms 1/84	105%
100%	90%	Trms 6/84	101%
100%	90%	Trms 12/84	100%
100%	98%	Trms 10/84	104%
110%	103%	Each 12/84	108%
110%	101%	Each 1/84	109%
100%	90%	Each 6/84	100%
95%	88%	Each 3/84	94%
100%	99%	Each 10/84	100%
111%	102%	Trms 12/84	109%
110%	106%	Trms 12/84	114%
110%	106%	Trms 12/84	114%
110%	106%	Coor 10/84	108%
111%	108	Each 1/84	116%
110%	106%	Each 1/84	117%
128%	113%	Trms 1/84	122%
128%	113%	Trms 10/84	116%
121%	109%	Each 1/84	119%



## COMMENT

## Sugar switches board strategy

Amstrad's sudden enthusiasm for the idea of a couple of non-executive directors to grace its boardroom is remarkable. Well-pressed, experienced corporate men of the kind likely to be put forward by Pro-Ned are not exactly the favourite role model for Alan Sugar, Amstrad's creator. His four-square and four-letter approach to business suggests entirely different values. The decision to search for independent directors at a time when Mr Sugar's plan to buy back the company from outside shareholders is running into heavy flak hints at a decision to make a virtue out of necessity. Certainly, Mr Sugar will find himself under stiff and immediate pressure to beef up the board with outsiders if the buy-back plan fails.

Whatever happens, no one involved will emerge from the episode with burnished halo or enhanced reputation. It might be time for a few City interest groups, certainly those concerned with the image of the stock market and the promotion of share ownership, to prevent such an exercise occurring again.

Should it be possible in future for a dominant shareholder to offer other investors a buyout financed with substantial amounts of their own company's money? The whole of Mr Sugar's scheme is riddled with possible conflicts of interest that doubtless he has wrestled with in a responsible manner. But the proposed Amstrad loans to finance the purchase are especially troublesome. They beg the question of what alternative and perhaps more beneficial use to shareholders may be found for the cash.

Should it be possible for such a buyout to be constructed in circumstances where there are no independent directors to appraise the offer on behalf of outside shareholders, or even a statutory requirement for an independent merchant bank assessment of terms?

Should a dominant shareholder/manager like Mr Sugar be allowed to bid without the need for a mandatory alternative of liquidation, or tender offer from other interested parties?

Instead of seeking to create new share owners with the usual tired array of perks and prospects of short-term gain in the BT3 share sale, the government would do better to set its parliamentary draftsmen to work on the task of safeguarding those who have already taken the plunge and find the water more bracing than expected.

## Brussels sprouts

Sir Leon Brittan's proposal to widen Brussels' powers over merger control may have its merits, but its timing is anything other than a diplomatic masterpiece. On the eve of the Edinburgh summit, Europe's main concern is about how power can be devolved from Brussels back to the nation state, and not the other way round.

The question of renegotiating the present merger rules does not come up until 1994. Until then the EC will investigate only under certain conditions. One of the most important criteria is the 5 billion ecu turnover threshold. The simplest way to increase the commission's responsibility would be to lower this threshold. Sir Leon's proposal will be met with little applause in Europe's capitals, where there are many vested interests against any further erosion of national powers. But the principle behind European competition policy is generally accepted: for a single market to work, one needs a system to prevent abuses of competitive positions within that market. The debate is therefore not about principles, but about definitions. The EC needs to make a good case to justify further policy shifts, the best way being to show that the present regime works successfully.

## Seven wise men chosen by Treasury to bear gift of vision for sceptical UK

The choice of three of those who will join the Treasury team is as radical as the acceptance of women priests, writes Janet Bush

In September, he dismissed them as quack doctors and ridiculed them for peddling miracle cures for the economy. This week, he asked them to help him govern. John Major has been gorging himself on his own words since sterling was drummed out of the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16. His appointment of some of his most outspoken critics to a privileged panel of seven independent forecasters provides yet another feast. The Forecasting Panel is one of two initiatives announced by the government in October to reassure the public and financial markets about economic policy. The other is a Monthly Monetary Report that will outline the Treasury's thinking. The character of the Seven Wise Men appointed this week to provide forecasts and policy recommendations to the Treasury has a superficial drama. It remains to be seen whether it will mean a fundamental change in how economic policy is made.

The "quack doctors" John Major ridiculed in his speech to the Scottish CBI just six days before sterling's exit from the ERM are well represented on the new panel. Three of the seven were vociferously opposed to the government's policy of bearing down on inflation by defending sterling's parity in the European currency grid. Patrick Minford, Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Liverpool and a radical exponent of free market economic philosophy, is the leading member of the Liverpool Six who warned the government of impending depression if it did not abandon its ERM commitment.

Professor Tim Congdon is another member of the Liverpool grouping. He was politely squeezed out of L Messel, the city broker, in 1988. It is said, after he correctly predicted that interest rates would soar into double figures as the government finally tried to stamp out an uncontrollable and inflationary boom. Now running his own consultancy called Lombard Street Research, he was a fierce critic of the ERM policy even before it was adopted at the expense of two of the most senior members of Margaret Thatcher's cabinet.

Though staunch opponents of the government's decision to rely on fixed exchange rates and deeply opposed to government policy in recent years, their choice is partially understandable. Both men believe that monetary indicators such as the money supply should determine government policy, both have enjoyed close links and considerable influence with Conservatism as it was defined in the 1980s. Professor Minford was a favoured informal adviser to Mrs Thatcher during the 1980s. Tim Congdon believes that his monetarist writings in the 1970s were an important



Joining Lamont: back row, Congdon, Minford, Sentence, Currie, front row, Britton, Davies and Godley

component of what became the Medium Term Financial Strategy, discarded by Nigel Lawson in the late 1980s. There are no such old ideological loyalties in the third radical. Professor Wynne Godley, leader of the Cambridge Economic Policy Group, was a prominent victim of the ideological monopoly on economic thought established by the monetarists at the Treasury during the 1980s. The Cambridge group, consistently Keynesian and anti-laurel, found itself completely marginalised from the economic

thinking of the nation as Thatcherism took hold in Whitehall. In 1982, the snub was formalised when the government cut off the group's research funding, despite the fact that its forecasts of the course of the 1979-81 recession had been far more accurate than those of the official economists. Of all this week's appointments, Professor Godley's was the largest admission of the failure of government policy. It was Godley who worked secretly from his desk at the Treasury to prepare the ground for the 1987 devaluation of sterling and who argued passionately

for sterling to be devalued to find a way out of the current recession.

He has consistently argued that Britain was incapable of achieving full employment because industry was too small and too uncompetitive. As soon as Britain grows fast enough to create jobs, imports flood in and the country is gripped in unsustainable trade deficits. It is a measure of how difficult it is to return from an intellectual wilderness that Wynne Godley's exemplary forecasting record was passed by in a *Financial Times* survey of Britain's most accurate forecasters at the end of October.

Unlike any of the 41 forecasting groups included in the survey, Godley forecast accurately the depth of the recession in 1991 and its continuation this year.

John Major's invitation to these three men into the citadel of Treasury thinking is as radical as the General Synod's admission of women priests into the Church of England. It remains to be seen whether it will cause as much soul searching.

The government has taken care to provide some centre ground ballast to its three radical critics with four far more predictable choices. Two — David Currie, of the London Business School, and Andrew Britton, of the National Institute of Social and Economic Research — were always obvious candidates. They run Britain's two most established forecasting institutions and have at their disposal sophisticated computer models to track the economy. These two establishment figures have tended to endorse the Treasury's conclusions.

The sixth man is Andrew Sentance, director of economic affairs at the CBI, another establishment choice, and the seventh is Gayn Davies, a partner at Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, who has straddled both political camps.

These four endorsed the government's ERM policy because of the stability and discipline that the system was believed to confer on Europe's economies. They also underestimated the depth and length of the recession. It is an irony of the last two years that those solid voices at the centre ground of economic forecasting were wrong, while the radical prophets of left and right crying doom from the wilderness were right.

From now on, this motley crew will gather to discuss economics under the chairmanship of Alan Budd, chief economic adviser to the Treasury. They have been asked to produce a report for the Chancellor three times a year in February, June and October. Not only will they provide short-term and medium-term forecasts but also policy recommendations. Such an advisory panel is not a new idea. In Germany, the government listens carefully to the views of Five Wise Men. The American government has a Council of Economic Advisors, but these are political appointees.

It is not clear yet how influential the UK panel will be. Each man has been assured that the Treasury will not attempt to limit discussion or to impose its views. Each man will go on publishing his own forecasts. The Treasury has said that the reports to the Chancellor will be "agreed" and then published. Precise details of what will come into the public domain have yet to be worked out, but it is believed that the panel's deliberations and any discussion will be published with the central view and the risks attached to it. So far, so good. What really matters is whether the Treasury takes any notice of its new advisers. At least the new openness will allow the public to listen in to what the Chancellor's co-pilots are whispering in the captain's ear. If he then decides to go on flying solo, the fault will be his alone.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## In search of the missing millions of unemployed

From Mr D Peter Smith, Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's article (December 7) on the blurred truth about job losses is very timely, but because available statistics only tell half the story his analysis has its limitations.

Where are the missing millions of unemployed? We know that more than 10.5 million are over state pension age. However, there must be several million over 50 and under state pension age who are "pensioned off" in redundancy schemes and not claiming unemployment benefit.

Remember, men between 60 and 65 who are not in work have no reason to register for unemployment, the only source of such statistics. Most employers claim to make use of what is called "natural wastage" in redundancy schemes. What this means in practice is that a substantial number of redundancies are taken up by early retirements, voluntary or otherwise. It is my experience in

counselling these people that many of them do not register as unemployed, because they have gained enough National Insurance contributions by 55 to obtain a full basic state pension when they reach the appropriate age. Amongst redundant managers between the ages of 50 and 60, many set themselves up as "consultants" operating from home and perhaps doing casual work in the "Utopian" three days a week category, whether or not they obtain such work. These people are not in the statistics and form another part of the missing number which Mr Kaletsky is seeking.

What the statistics in the *Employment Gazette* of November 1992 do tell us is that 31.3 per cent of all unemployed were over 40 years of age as at July 1992, an increase of 18.6 per cent over the previous 12 months. In July this year 42 per cent of these over-40s were classified

as "long term" unemployed, i.e. on the register for more than a year.

Perhaps it would be useful for us to start analysing the effect that this situation is going to have on drawing us out of recession, because the over-40s of our economy are those who used to spend the real money, buying and furnishing homes, domestic equipment, bringing up children, having at least one car — two if there was a company car — buying clothes, taking holidays and so on.

They are now amongst the potentially long-term poor of this nation and it is the female partners who are holding the fort, only 22.5 per cent of the unemployed in the over-40s being women. Yours sincerely, D PETER SMITH, Managing Director, DPS Consultants, Dodd's Lane, 27 Preston Street, Paversham, Kent.

## Losing out on the percentages

From Mrs Doreen Holman, Sir, Please, please, can I be one of the 65 per cent mentioned by Jane Bradford, head of small business services, who have "seen no change in margins at all during the recession" and I would be absolutely thrilled to be one of

those magic 5 per cent who had "seen a reduction" ("NatWest" chief grilled on small firms", December 3). Yours faithfully, DOREEN HOLMAN, West Winds, Riviera Lane, St Mawes, Truro.

## Missed opportunity

From Mr Paul Bakker, Sir, So, Mr Sugar is unable to identify Amstrad's next blockbuster and plans to take the company back into private hands. While I sympathise with his predicament, one wonders whether Amstrad still has the will to introduce new products. My firm has written to Mr Sugar on three occasions to enquire whether he would be interested to hear our idea for a new consumer electronics product. No one can guarantee profitable blockbusters, but we felt that Amstrad could make a success of this one. Sadly, we did not even receive the courtesy of a reply and are now approaching manufacturers in other countries. Sounds familiar? Yours faithfully, W. P. BAKKER, 2-4 High Tech Centre, Peterborough.

## Rights to dividends

From E. G. Mosely, Sir, From time to time companies in which I hold shares offer to give me new shares in lieu of dividends. As this is a convenient and inexpensive way of increasing my holding, I sometimes accept the offer. I recently received such an offer from Marks & Spencer. On reading the small print I notice I am asked to agree to receive shares in lieu of dividend, not only in respect of the current dividend, but also in respect of all future dividends. I know I can revoke the mandate at some future time, but this requires me to take some positive step. I should not have to do this in order to preserve my ordinary right to receive dividends in cash. Yours faithfully, E. G. MOSELY, 14 Sunny Hill Court, Sunningfields Crescent, NW4

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## No more Nomura

NOMURA, the British arm of the Japanese securities house, is reorganising its UK and European securities division following the resignation, after five years with the firm, of Tony White, its senior equity trader. White, who will leave on December 17, without, as yet, a job to go to, is understood to have found "downsizing" his division — part of Nomura's decision to make 49 people in trading, sales and research redundant in October — emotionally draining. "He wants to seek a new challenge in the securities industry," Nomura says. "It has been a tough year and he wants a change and a rest — he is taking a holiday with his family. We are sorry to see him go, he is a good trader, but we respect his decision." White joined in 1987 and successfully completed his brief to establish Nomura's UK and European trading operations, but his role will now be split in two. Robert Cutlerham, an internal candidate, will become head of UK market-making, and another person appointed head of UK sales trading.

## Bull points

THE management reshuffle at Guinness has led to speculation within the group's Portman Square headquarters that the choice of successor to Tony Greener as group chairman has already been narrowed down to three men. Greener, aged 52, and due to take over from Anthony Ten-



Greener: taking over

win the race. Sagittarians are, she says, "ambitious, efficient, motivated", but are inclined to be "all speed and no endurance". But Taurians are "determined, aggressive and have steady will power", work at their best in a room on their own in a large organisation and "like to work within the rules". Sounds just what Guinness needs.

## David Kay

IT WAS business as normal at Goodard Kay Rogers, the headhunter, after the death on Sunday of its founder and chairman, David Kay, in an aircraft crash. Kay, 57, was piloting a hired Cessna when it crashed at Booker Airfield, Buckinghamshire, and his wife Margaret, 58, the mother of his four children — aged from 26 to 32 — was also killed. They were returning from a three-day trip to visit his mother in Newcastle. Kay, a graduate of Trinity College, Oxford, began his career as a personnel manager with ICI and Rank Xerox, setting up GKR in 1970. He remained its majority shareholder. "He was very much a full-time chairman," says fellow director Sir John Trelawny. When colleagues cleared his desk on Monday they found a handwritten A4 list of tasks he intended to attend to that day. "He was charming, clever, buccaneering," adds Trelawny. "He set very high standards of integrity and the business will continue with the standards he set." The funeral will be held at Cookham Dean, Berkshire, on Monday.

CAROL LEONARD

## Fighting to bring convenience to the selling of newspapers

From Mr John Gardner, Sir, The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is reviewing newspaper wholesaling practices which currently preclude the sale of newspapers and magazines in independent convenience stores.

VG, which serves 700 independent stores, is conducting a campaign on behalf of all independents to rectify this situation. The essence of our case is that a free and competitive market is not operating, that current practices are not in the public interest and that community stores are being prejudiced unfairly as they seek to survive by the refusal of the newspaper wholesaler to allow them to sell and deliver newspapers. The structure of

retailing has changed significantly during the past few years and confectionery, tobacco, newsagents (CTNs) have entered the grocery sector. However, whilst the CTNs can respond to the changing customer dynamics, grocery or convenience stores, such as VG, are being denied the same opportunity or response, the reason being that newspaper wholesalers refuse to give them supplies. The newspaper wholesaler is therefore acting as judge, jury and executioner in the market place.

The consequences of current practices are highly damaging to the 42,000 independent community stores in the UK as they are being put in a very

unfair position which is prejudicial to their survival. The newspaper wholesalers' actions mean there is no competition on price, delivery, range or opening hours, unlike all other retail sectors. The fact is the market is rigged and the issue is all the more damning because two of the largest newspaper wholesalers also have major retail chains selling newspapers and magazines. In our view the current cartel should not be allowed to continue in the interest of free trade and the customer. Yours faithfully, JOHN GARDNER, Managing Director, VG Distributors Ltd, 2 Bow Court, Fletchworth Gate, Coventry.

## THE TIMES

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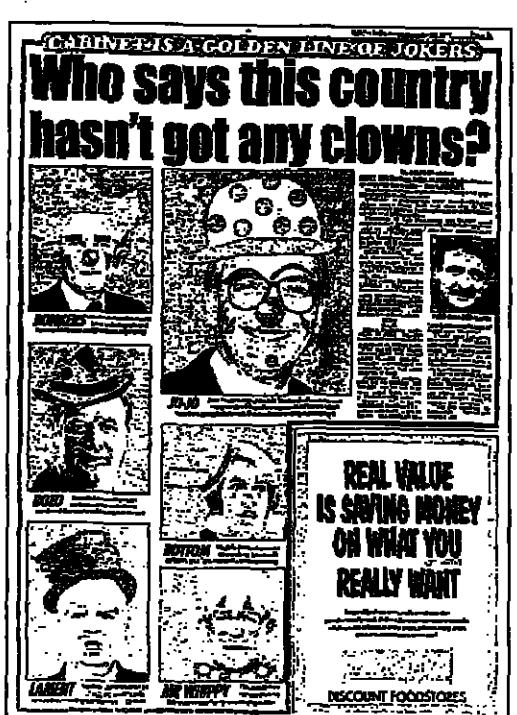
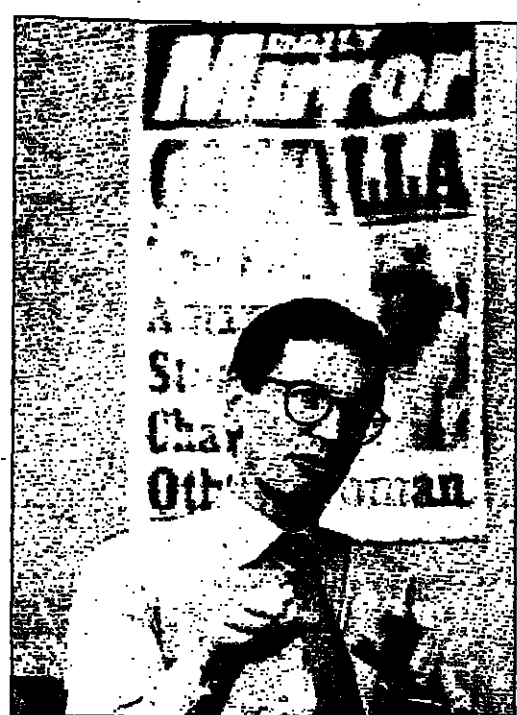
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David Montgomery and his *Mirrors*: there is a danger that the papers' trademark — serious politics made entertaining — might be changed

## A paper that rarely sees red

David Montgomery — whose career in journalism has not been significantly held back by an over-sensitive nature — no doubt intended to be reassuring when he explained that commercial considerations would always keep the *Daily Mirror* faithful to Labour. But his protestations sounded like a husband telling his suspicious wife that their marriage is safe because he cannot afford to keep a mistress. The lady and the party both need to be loved for themselves. It is hard to imagine Mr Montgomery managing a paper that is socialist with a passion.

No doubt he will continue to publish knockabout attacks on the Conservative government. Pictures of cabinet ministers, onto which clown's make-up had been added, graced the paper on November 20 as a foretaste of treats in store. But there are already signs that the *Mirror's* exclusive trademark — serious politics made entertaining by high-quality journalism — is in danger of being changed.

There is still a lot of politics in the paper. But it is not quite the politics of a great crusade. It was its crusading quality which made the *Mirror* so valuable an ally to a party

In October David Montgomery, former editor of *Today*, took over the *Mirror*. Roy Hattersley detects a change of style, and a weaker punch

which was short of Fleet Street friends. Mr Montgomery came to the paper just as a period of frenzied political action was petering out — ERM debate, pit closures and the Maastricht vote. So it is impossible to judge the new *Mirror's* political commitment by measuring the column inches before and after his arrival. But the tone — throughout the group — has perceptibly changed. "Exclusive" seems to have become the *Sunday Mirror's* favourite word. It was used on November 29 to promote a story which had first appeared in the early editions of *The Mail on Sunday* — a "spoiling" technique for which Mr Montgomery was famous when he edited *Today*.

The "exclusive" was a rewrite of the *Mail's* revelation that the Treasury had paid £4,000 towards the cost of evicting Norman Lamont's dubious tenant. The *Sunday Mirror* (in the 65 words which

were the total text on its front page that day) described the payment as "tax payers' money to deal with a kinky sex therapist". No doubt on reflection Mr Montgomery was distressed to realise that some of his readers might have been confused about the nature of the dispute between the Chancellor and the lady, described as Miss Whiplash.

It was its crusading quality which made the *Mirror* so valuable an ally

The "Lamont Miss Whiplash Scandal" story can only be described as dubious in every respect. About the previous Sunday's front page — two inch deep banner headline and four square inches of text — there can be no doubt. "Major's son is a soccer job" is not the sort of story of which

decent newspapers are made. No doubt the young man was sent off while playing football for his school. Perhaps one of his team mates did describe him as "one answer to Vinny Jones". So what? There are a thousand better reasons for attacking the prime minister. But on the evidence of his record, they are not Mr Montgomery's style.

Indeed, not even his greatest political passion — the battle against the IRA — received the treatment that the screaming *News of the World* editorials (directed by Mr Montgomery against the *Mirror's* old "troops out" policy) entitled readers to expect. On the day that

followed the "Manchester bomb blast", *Mirror* Comment briefly thundered no surrender. But the news story had to take second place to a not very funny joke built around a picture of the Queen coming out of an Oxfam shop. Only once in a fortnight was the old campaigning *Mirror*

on view: a contrast between the government paying the bill for the Windsor fire damage and an octogenarian tenant of Prince Charles, whose rent is about to rise by £20 a week.

But the real tests are still to come. The star columnists — Paul Foot (exotic left) and Anne Robinson (unaligned radical) — will, if the new management has any sense, be guarded like pure gold. A senior executive of a rival newspaper group described them to me as "the best two columnists in Britain" — as long as they keep working for the sort of paper that fits their aggressive style. The test is whether the new *Mirror* can live up to its best journalists.

At least Mr Montgomery and Mr Foot are on speaking terms again. The Foot threat to send the new chief executive to Coventry has only proved that you can take the boy out of the public school, but you cannot take the public school out of the boy.

The important question is whether or not you can take *The News of the World* out of an editor of such, shall we say, distinctive a paper. A *News of the World*, or a *Today*, that is occasionally rude about the Tory party is not what the Labour party needs. It looks as if it is what we are going to get.

## Great news for the world's villains

Who would sit down to watch repeats of *This Week*, which with *World in Action* has been ITV's answer to the BBC's *Panorama*? Thames Television's current affairs flagship, on its way to the breaker's yard on Thursday after sailing the airwaves for 36 years, was a remarkable programme that strove consistently for quality, was never afraid of controversy and, on occasions, stood up for journalistic integrity in the face of the most furious Establishment opposition.

Many of its programmes are classics of the genre. "Dying for a Pag", a pioneering exposure of the links between smoking and lung cancer; "Ethiopia, the Unknown Famine", a report from the young Jonathan Dimbleby in 1975 that helped bring down the regime of Haile Selassie; "Death on the Rock", a damning critique of the Gibraltar shootings, which turned Mrs Thatcher's mind towards the reform of ITV franchising.

They were all extraordinary productions — and there were many more: more than 1,500 in total. But who outside the media remembers them? Current affairs, by definition, has a finite shelf life, and its after-image is of interest primarily to insiders and historians. The argument for keeping such programmes as *This Week* alive is that they contribute greatly to public awareness of what is going on in the world at the time; and that, at their best, they are agents of change, quickening the pace of reform.

Television in this country is, however, going through a revolution, and Carlton Television's coup, whereby it scooped up the London weekday franchise from Thames, with effect from January 1, was a death knell for *This Week*. Ironically, through its exertions on behalf of the truth about the government and the IRA, the programme had helped provoke its own demise.

Carlton has chosen to make a fresh start on the current affairs front with *Storyline*, a 30-minute series by the experi-

*This Week* dies tomorrow, and with it 36 years of hard-nosed TV journalism

enced programme-maker Claudia Milne. Carlton points out that the Independent Television Authority, and not individual franchisees, demanded a re-think of current affairs on Thursday nights. The authority's argument is that *This Week* in recent months has been taking too small a percentage of total viewers — some 19 per cent — to make it commercially viable.

Marcus Plantin, ITV's head of scheduling, has decided that *Storyline* should be run

cerned with generalities — homelessness, drought, famine, Bosnia — than with controversies and incidents that have just happened and require investigation almost on the spot.

At *This Week*, where the normally frantic atmosphere is tinged with sadness, Paul Woolwich, the programme's editor for the last two years, is painfully aware of the kinds of pressures which have killed it. The eight million barrier, established by ITV as the minimum for peak-time viewing, can never be breached by a serious investigation of contemporary issues, and with competition ever more intense with the advent of Sky and other non-terrestrial channels, something had to give.

The loss, though, will be keenly felt by all "serious" television journalists, such as Robert Kee, Desmond Wilcox, Ludovic Kennedy, and Olivia O'Leary, who helped cut their teeth on its urgent, demanding format.

"What will happen now," says Woolwich, "is that programmes will be more down-market, and difficult and demanding subjects, such as Ulster, will be ignored in favour of more obvious 'glamour' themes."

Over the years, we have combined the best news-gathering techniques with the skill of the documentary maker and have built up a reputation for courage, intelligence and integrity. We have questioned those with power over our lives and we have learnt to popularise difficult areas by telling the story through the eyes of the participants. We have often made the news, not just followed it, but in the brave new world of ITV we are forced to go up against game shows and soaps and we cannot possibly win."

This week's *This Week* will not in fact be the last. A retrospective, covering all 36 years, will be broadcast, over an hour, later this month: a time to reflect not only on what we have lost but on what we can still save for the future.

WALTER ELLIS



Jonathan Dimbleby: on the cutting edge

for an initial 13 weeks and then compared in ratings with *The Cook Report*, from Central, and Yorkshire Television's 3-D, before a final decision is taken on which should hold the slot long-term.

*Storyline*, despite the similarity of its brief — current affairs from Britain and abroad — will be less up-to-the-minute than *This Week* and, according to Carlton, will deal not so much with "events" as with "issues". The danger with this format is that, no matter how well done, the programme will be less hard-edged than its illustrious predecessor and more con-

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For a detailed job description and application form please write to Mrs Jane Gotta, Welsh Arts Council, 9 Museum Place, Cardiff, CF1 3NZ. The closing date for the return of completed applications is 8 January, 1993. Interviews will be later that month.

The Welsh Arts Council has an Equal Opportunity Recruitment Policy. It warmly welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

### BBC Radio Solent

BBC Radio Solent  
BBC South

BBC Radio Solent is in partnership with BBC tv South in our hi-tech newsroom at the new Broadcasting House in Southampton. We are producing daily that bi-media works. The demands made on the Solent news team are exacting and progress is fast on a station where accurate and comprehensive news and current affairs have always come first. Our reputation is second to none in the BBC local chain and that's why our news team is a regular target for talent spotters.

### News Producer

To produce news bulletins and Radio Solent's breakfast programme *Solent Today*. Working largely on rota, you will probably already have some production experience and be able to brief, direct and follow through with your Reporters to provide comprehensive and imaginative coverage of issues touching the lives of people in the South. You may be attached to district office for periods.

Salary £15,725 - £22,336 p.a. plus allowance of £3,130 p.a. for unpredictability of working pattern. (Ref: 1137/T)

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# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Derek Harris on the £2 billion market for hospital services

## Healthy expansion in caring sector

**P**&O Total Facilities Management, part of the P&O shipping and business services group and a leader in the facilities management field, is seeing the first fruits of its entry into the health sector.

Its latest contract is for total facilities management at Queen Mary's, a 620-bed general hospital at Sidcup, Kent. P&O will be responsible for the organisation of all key servicing there, from catering, laundry, security and gardening to telecommunications and electrical installations. The hospital spends about £5.7 million a year on these facilities.

The health sector is involved mostly with hospital services and with the National Health Service rather than the private sector. This is because private sector hospitals are smaller, with an average of 150 staff, than state establishments, which are likely to run from 500 to 1,000 staff.

The latter has seen considerable contracting out in the past. As in many parts of industry and commerce, services such as cleaning and catering have often been outsourced, but usually as a single bought-in service.

Some idea of the size of the health services market is that in cleaning and allied services — but excluding catering and laundry — NHS spending has been about £400 million a year. Facilities management companies believe that health service business which could come their way is worth up to £2 billion.

What is clear is that facilities management deals, bringing a series of non-core activities under a single umbrella, are likely to proliferate.

This perception lies behind the entry of P&O. With Richard Wheeler as general manager, the facilities management team can call on

much in-house expertise within the group, such as its catering subsidiary, P&O Catering (known until recently as Sutcliffe), and Sterling in the security field. However, since P&O created a facilities management consultancy arm, it makes a point of being distanced from these service providers. This is because the team, as consultants advising companies on how to organise their facilities, aims to be impartial.

Hence, although P&O Total Facilities Management might recommend a P&O group service provider for a particular job, it might equally recommend some other provider, or urge that the work be carried out in-house — with the final decision depending upon the most efficient, cost-effective option.

P&O's new health services division has other contracts. East Yorkshire Health Authority has appointed it to carry out work for two north Humberside hospitals, Castle Hill Hospital in Cottingham and Westwood Hospital in Beverley. The division will carry out procurement and management of the portering services at the hospitals.

The division is also managing the new Leeds headquarters of the health and social security departments which are moving from London in a



**'We want to provide the best possible service within the best disciplines'**

RICHARD WHEELER

phased programme which began last July.

Mr Wheeler says: "A number of health authorities are looking increasingly to placing the organisation of services together rather than as single-service contracts. It is the way to achieve the most cost-effective delivery and economies of scale by bringing to bear the experience of the total facilities management system."

It does not necessarily follow that services would be contracted out. A total facilities manager

might organise in-house activities. Mr Wheeler says: "At the end of the day we want to provide the best possible service within the best disciplines."

Nor will cost savings necessarily be the only important criterion. Quality of services delivered could be an equally crucial target, he points out. With the changes in the health sector, the concept of the patient being a customer, for whom service quality is important, is becoming widely recognised he says.

While the increasing complexity of hospital buildings presents one challenge in achieving maximum efficiency of services, there can be assets which a hospital could exploit, Mr Wheeler says. "A hospital laundry might produce sterilised material for use

in the operating theatre but have spare capacity which could be used perhaps by supplying other hospitals, including those in the private sector. In a situation like that, we could bring commercial and marketing skills to bear."

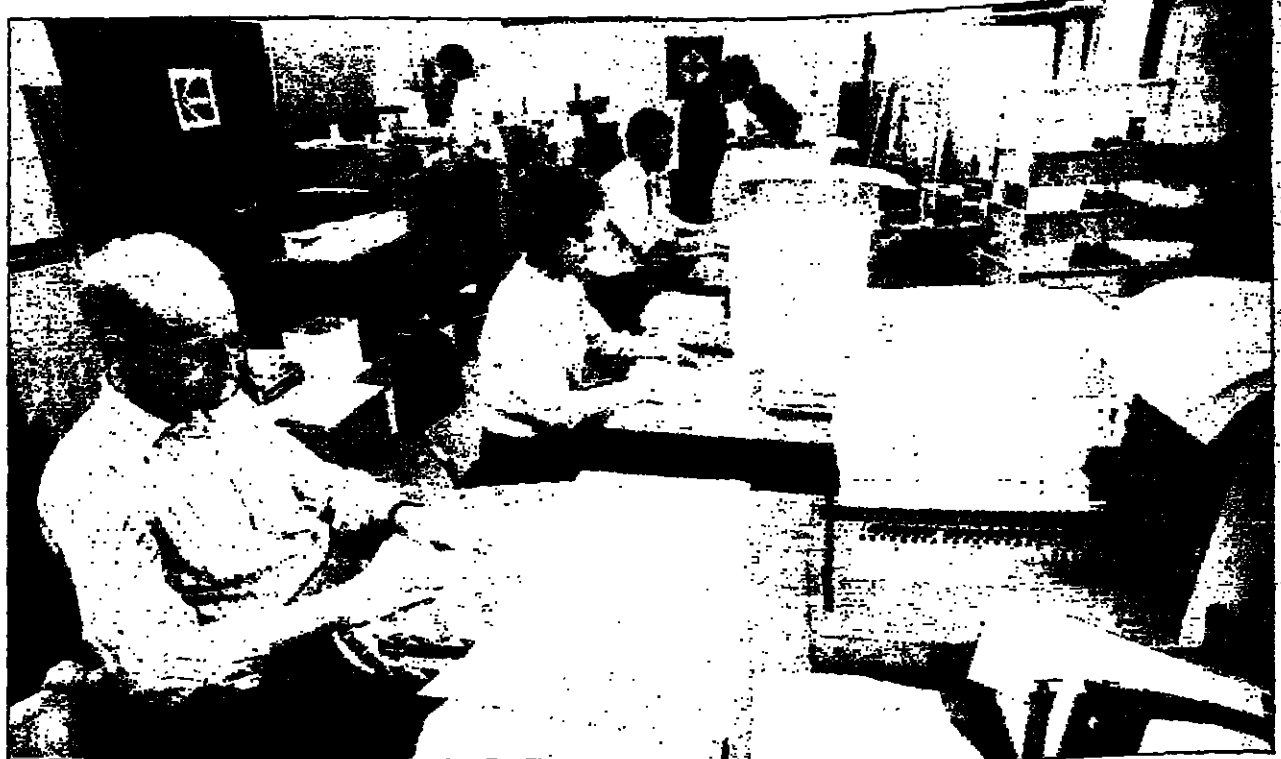
● A facilities management contract will provide an information service at a leading London teaching hospital, St Mary's at Paddington, as well as three other hospitals in its group. The contract has gone to McDonnell Douglas Information Systems. It is awarded through the St Mary's Trust and is worth £5 million over six years.

The information service will support the work of clinicians, nursing staff and hospital management at St Mary's, St Charles's, Kensington, the Samaritan Hospital for Women, Marylebone, and the Western Ophthalmic, Paddington.

Both patients and staff will benefit says Neil Goodwin, the trust's chief executive. "St Mary's is to achieve full trust status next April and we are determined to have the mechanism for continuing to provide high quality patient care coupled with sound financial and business viability," he says. "This innovative managed services contract addresses key aspects of the hospital's requirements."

It should help with tasks such as contracts support, appointment scheduling, bed utilisation, lengths of stay and the management of waiting lists.

McDonnell Douglas Information Systems, based in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, is an offshoot of America's McDonnell Douglas group. Its other health sector contracts include a full on-site service for the Clwyd Health Authority in north Wales in managing the authority's information technology system.



On deadline: staff have gained specialised training from Kodak facilities management at Berkshire county council

## Fixing a positive image

**R**eprographics has long been a market associated with contracting-out, or outsourcing. With its copiers, Rank Xerox has been the giant in the field, although Kodak has been making inroads over the past decade. Now the imaging needs of companies have proliferated, such as in the scanning, storing, retrieving and printing of documents via microfilm and electronic means (Derek Harris writes).

Thus the sector's growth is being driven in more than one way. The forecasts for this area of facilities management are little short of startling.

The European market for reprographics in facilities management terms is alone estimated to be worth about £65 million annually, with the United Kingdom accounting for more than £30 million in sales. The next-largest national market is France. By 1996 the European market is expected to be worth more than £360 million, as growth soars by 60 per cent a year. Even the highly developed UK market is expected to see 35 per cent annual growth, which helps explain why in January 1991, Kodak, which has been selling reprographics hardware for 12 years, launched its Kodak Facilities Management subsidiary.

Kodak was keen to exploit its traditional strengths in photographic and other imaging as well as those it has gained in photocopying and electronic printing.

**One company is making the most of its traditional strengths**

John Strachan, director and general manager of Kodak FM, believes that if all business imaging facilities management element is added to the reprographics element in the sector, UK sales are probably running at up to £80 million this year. He estimates sales last year were £50

business we have to provide businesses with a total solution to their needs."

Kodak sees as natural customers for a "total imaging audit" those whose operations involve big volumes of paper-based information: banks, insurance companies and financial institutions. Two facilities management contracts involving Kodak have brought in savings of 15 per cent. At Berkshire county council, the central copying facility had to meet special demands because committee documents had to be produced to tight timescales. Gains from outsourcing included more flexibility in production and meant that scarce capital was not tied up in equipment. Senior management time was also saved because council managers had only a supervisory role. Council reprographics staff switched to Kodak employment and gained from specialised training.

The experience left the council keen to bring in facilities management of all support services at its headquarters, from couriers and the mailroom to security and portering.

Since last April, savings of about 15 per cent have been achieved on reprographics costs at Bull Information Systems. The UK arm of France's Groupe Bull, which is one of the world's ten leading information systems companies, now also has Kodak printing its 1,300 technical manuals and is looking at how it may further exploit facilities management techniques.

**Even the highly developed UK market is expected to see 35 per cent annual growth**

million, so growth in the past 12 months could approach 60 per cent. A more conservative estimate is that the sector will have sales this year of about £70 million, a growth of about 40 per cent. "Quite a number of blue chip companies are going through major restructuring, and that naturally turns their attention to outsourcing," he says. "From our own perspective the market place is clearly changing; we can no longer just be a supplier of hardware. If we want to do

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# Checking up on the office

Rodney Hobson reports on fresh rules governing health and safety

New health and safety legislation from Westminster and Brussels is concentrating the minds of managers. In particular, the directives from Brussels which will come into effect on January 1.

As it becomes harder for key individuals to digest the welter of new rules and still concentrate on their business, a system designed by Matthew Hall, the facilities management specialist, over the past 14 months is proving a life-saver.

Geoff Keating, at the facilities services division, says: "The Electricity at Work Regulations say a company should maintain its electrical equipment, but it does not say how the equipment should be maintained or what tests should be carried out."

"If there is an accident at work the first question that will be asked is when was the equipment last checked? The only way to prove the equipment has been tested is to maintain a record."

Matthew Hall decided to develop its own computer software package including all the parameters set by British and European rules. The result was Smart, a computerised system for checking portable electrical equipment from fans and kettles to modern technol-

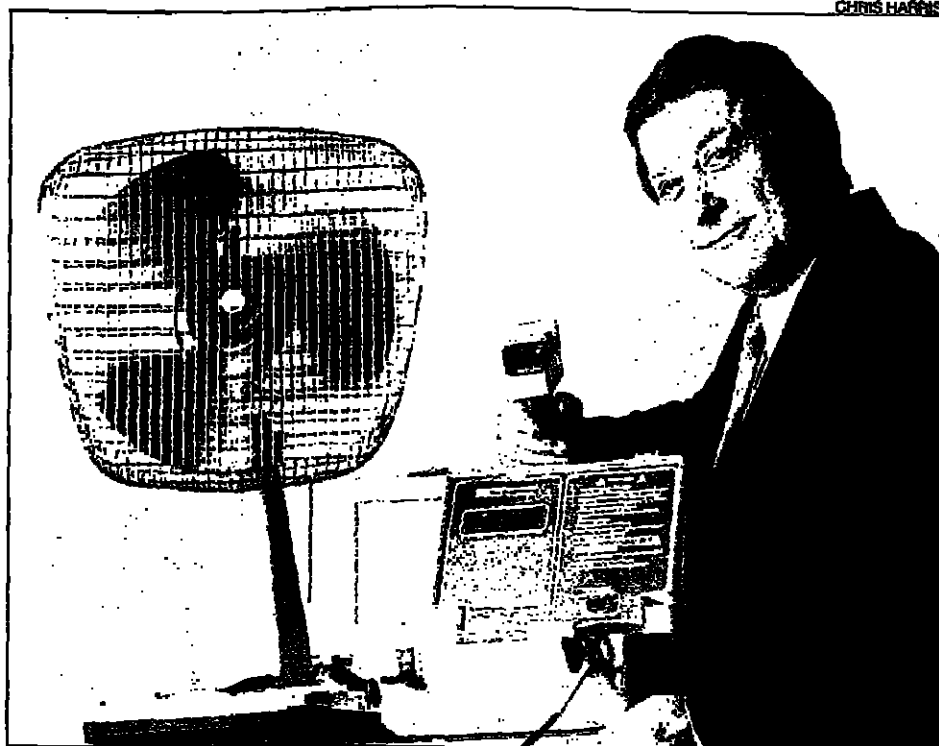
ogy. It consists of a machine that reads bar codes, an instrument for testing electrical equipment and a laptop computer.

Matthew Hall fixes a bar code to each item of a client's electrical equipment. Details including the nature of the equipment, its location and its history are fed on to a floppy disc. The equipment is then passed as safe, or the Smart system explains why it is failing a particular item.

Mr Keating says: "If a client requires it, we can produce a full list of every piece of equipment we test. There could be five or 5,000 appliances. Usually the client does not want to look at a list of the ones that have passed, so we can extract a list of items that have failed. We show how they can be brought up to standard."

Because each item has its own unique bar code, on subsequent visits the testing equipment can spot if a piece of equipment has been moved to a different floor or even a different site, making it easier for a client to keep track of often expensive items.

Information recorded by the testing equipment can be downloaded on to the client's own computer to give him a full record. The value of each piece of equipment can be



Safety first: Geoff Keating says companies must comply with the regulations

included in the record, thus giving the client an easy check on asset values.

Regulations tend to be vague on how often equipment should be tested. Matthew Hall initially recommends an annual test for all equipment. Mr Keating says: "If someone has an accident and the duty holder's excuse is that the company could not afford to comply with safety regulations, that is just not good enough. That defence has been tried and was rejected at the judge."

Mr Keating believes companies are becoming more aware of their responsibilities and most of the equipment that Matthew Hall tests is in good condition. However, he points out that this is bound to be the case because companies that care call in expert help.

Others have some catching up to do. As recently as July, Eagle Star, Britain's biggest employers' liability insurer,

found that a third of companies had not even started to prepare for the tighter regulations. Many health and safety managers, especially those at firms with fewer than 100 workers, were unaware of changes in legislation.

## These changes in regulations are the biggest for 20 years

Mike Stones, Eagle Star's leading consultant on health and safety, says: "Employers must urgently recognise that this is the biggest change in regulations for 20 years. Many companies may be daunted by the complexity of the new regulations. If so, they should seek expert help from outside consultants on draw-

ing up risk management plans and monitoring compliance with the regulations."

Six fresh sets of regulations will take effect next month to implement EC directives on health and safety management, workplace requirements, manual handling, work equipment, display screen equipment and personal protective equipment.

Patrick McLoughlin, the employment minister responsible for health and safety, says: "Clearly there are legal and moral arguments for preventing accidents, but there are also compelling reasons to do with the cost of failing to manage risks effectively and the effect that this has on competitiveness."

"The hard fact is that accidents cost money — a great deal more than people realise. Most companies, even the best, suffer a real, continuous and hidden financial haemorrhage through accidents."

Savings and services are the key to improved business

## One step at a time

Asda, the supermarket chain, is outsourcing all the key services at its Leeds headquarters as part of a drive to cut costs and concentrate on its core retailing business.

The long-term contract, worth more than £1 million a year, has gone to Procord, the property and facilities management company bought out by its managers last year from IBM, the computer makers.

Ten different services will be managed by Procord — reprographics, reception, security, postal services, caretaking, maintenance and small works, telephone services, courier services, cleaning and space planning. There will be recruitment of Asda staff to the Procord management team.

Asda expects to make substantial savings, and have improved services. For Procord it brings not only their first retail client, but a big advance in their strategy of reducing reliance on IBM.

After the management buy-

out in August 1991, which left IBM with 49 per cent of Procord, the new company in its first 12 months of operation had a turnover of £26 million, of which £24 million was work for IBM.

John Jack, formerly the property director of IBM UK and now Procord's managing director, says: "We are heading towards IBM-related operations being 50 per cent of our workload."

Contracts with Guinness, the drinks group, and BP Exploration have been recent additions to Procord's portfolio. Under a contract worth £1 million, Procord will be managing the refurbishment and re-equipping of the restaurants and kitchen complex at the Guinness brewery at Park Royal, London. A review has also been mounted by Procord of all non-production services at the site.

For BP at its twin office buildings at Stockley Park, Heathrow, Procord is carrying out a full facilities management service. The contract

is worth more than £4 million over three years. Other clients include Ernst and Young, the consultants, the Prudential and Sun Alliance in insurance, and Texaco, the oil company.

Mr Jack says: "We shall be moving into the public sector selectively as well as pushing further into the corporate sector. Office and general purpose space will be the main areas of operation."

He also expects more opportunities to arise in manufacturing, especially with those companies where Procord may initially be brought in to run services at headquarter offices. Once a manufacturer sees the benefits of facilities management there, taking the step of outsourcing at factory level is more readily made, Mr Jack believes.

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will appear in 1993 on the following dates:

Wednesday 20th January 1993  
Wednesday 17th February 1993  
Wednesday 17th March 1993  
Wednesday 21st April 1993

For further details please call James Alexander James Leary 071 481 3024



071-481 1066

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Excellent package (Ward 2.0),  
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## CREATIVE













**OPERA page 34**  
Della Jones: she rose  
splendidly to the  
challenge of singing a  
demanding double role

# ARTS

THEATRE page 35

Sarah Brightman plays  
Rose, Trelawny of the  
'Wells', as a 'somewhat  
artificial' flower



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romantic appeal  
of the old story

**T**he nose has it. There is nowhere else to begin any discussion of Cyrano de Bergerac. Bulbous, pendulous or warty, it has made him a folk hero, instantly recognisable in any medium, whichever actor is playing him. Coupled with swash-buckling bravery and forlorn romanticism, it has made him a tragicomic figure like no other.

This Cyrano is the creation of Edmond Rostand, whose play about the 17th-century soldier, written in 1897 but set in the 1640s, is his most famous achievement. He collaborated with a popular actor of the day, Coquelin, who knew a good part when he saw it. For this is one of the great acting roles, full of heroic action, pathos and brilliant language, culminating in a touching death scene put in at Coquelin's request.

The story is familiar: Cyrano, brave but nasally challenged, falls in love with his cousin, the beautiful and clever Roxane. She in turn falls for Christian, a handsome but inarticulate cadet in Cyrano's own regiment. Cyrano provides the words with which Christian woos and wins Roxane. Christian is killed at the siege of Arras and Cyrano keeps the secret until he is dying, with Roxane at his side, 15 years later. The tantalising agony of losing that which is nearly won is a hallmark of the play and it applies to Roxane (whose marriage to Christian is never consummated because military duty intervenes) as well as to Cyrano. As he dies she says "I only loved one man and I have lost him twice."

This line comes from John Wells's translation, the latest to arrive on the London stage (with Robert Lindsay in the title role). The same line, or something like it, occurs in the 1950s film (starring José Ferrer, who got an Oscar for it) and in Edwin Morgan's robust Scottish dialect version, which won plaudits at Edinburgh this summer. It is absent from the recent French film starring Gérard Philipe and there isn't a death scene at all in Steve Martin's Hollywood romp, *Roxanne*. Rostand's play has become public property, part of everyone's imagination, which allows a certain liberty of treatment as well as respect for the original.

Jean-Claude Carrière's French film script was a substantially cut version, with a hundred new lines inserted, which in England was accompanied by subtitles provided



Robert Lindsay (top left) is the latest Cyrano, in Elijah Moshinsky's new production, described as "operatic in scope"

by Anthony Burgess. Burgess, in turn, had produced a bejewelled translation for the RSC's production, memorably starring Derek Jacobi, in 1983.

This had rhymes but in unexpected places, not heroic couplets to match the rhyming alexandrines of the original; it also had extravagant poetic imagery.

Wells has undertaken a kind of conservation exercise, avoiding the consciously poetic except when the character is being just that. "It is like cleaning a picture. We have gone for the simplest possible version in order to unbury the love story," Stella Gonet plays Roxane. The production is operatic in scope, however, with dangerous fights and cadets singing in eight-part harmony. Robert Lindsay's first entrance as Cyrano is by means of a spectacular flying leap on to the stage over the heads of the audience.

Spectacle is all very well, but if ever a play celebrated language,

this is it. Greatness of heart, strength of personality, intellectual gravitas and depth of feeling are symbolised by the ability to weave delightful sentences.

Wells seems equal to the task. His text, in unrhymed ten-syllable lines, is clear, rhythmic and witty. And he is sensitive to the sound of it. "If they put in an extra word by mistake it's like a horse stumbling."

He has been popping into re-

**'The agony of losing that  
which is nearly won applies  
to Roxane as well as Cyrano'**

hearsals to "beat them up" good-naturedly for such transgressions. Doyen of the Sixties satirists (he was co-editor of *Private Eye*), Wells has added, at the request of director Elijah Moshinsky, some satirical verses for the rebel poet Lignière.

Wells came to the play via the real Cyrano. Rostand's character is

based on Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac who, when not fighting, "more or less invented science fiction". He did have a big nose ("but only a nice, normal Jonathan Miller affair"); and he may have been gay which, as Wells says, "gives another slant to his relationship with Christian".

Wells was asked to write an introduction to the Folio Society's edition of Cyrano's *Voyages to the Sun and Moon*, which, incidentally, provided Swift with some ideas for *Gulliver's Travels*. Later, as a successful translator of Beaumarchais for the National Theatre, he was an obvious choice to translate Rostand.

He has been faithful to the original, pointing out the simplicity of many of Rostand's lines and his often down-to-earth language. The many references to the moon and space travel are kept. The hardest bit, he says, was the duel during which Cyrano composes verses extempore, promising to score a hit in the last line.

Which, of course, he accomplishes.

There is a hard edge, a toughness to this Cyrano. Robert Lindsay promises to make his nose a real deformity. Depardieu retained his craggy attractiveness in the film and other versions of the promiscuity have been merely comic.

The play remains a favourite in all its guises. This may be because it celebrates opposites so satisfyingly: handsome and ugly, comic and tragic (even the death scene has jokes), appearance and reality, the reckless hero and the pragmatist, mind and body, masculine and feminine (the swaggering Cyrano is reduced to tears by desire for Roxane); and lush romanticism saved from sentimentality by self-irony and the pain of coming to terms with imperfection.

Its latest translator fits the bill admirably: a scholar, sometime lecturer on Beaumarchais at the Sorbonne who is also, as he once put it himself, a member of the "red nose brigade".

● Cyrano de Bergerac is previewing at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket (071-930 8800) and opens on Monday

## The gasman goeth, Canaletto cometh

GAS smells sweet in Birmingham today. British Gas has come up with £50,000 to sponsor the inaugural exhibition when the city's newest art gallery opens its doors on October 13 next year. Not surprising, really: this gallery is none other than Birmingham's former Gas Department Rates Hall. Around £4 million is to be spent on refurbishing the Grade II listed Edwardian interior of the building, which has been renamed as "Gas Hall Exhibition Gallery" and will be the first Midlands venue with the space and facilities to house major international touring exhibitions.

Birmingham officials, struggling to maintain the city's high cultural profile in the teeth of the recession, are hoping that Gas Hall will make the same impact on the visual arts world as Symphony Hall has on the classical music scene. The opening show will be a monster: "Canaletto and England" will include 50 paintings by the 18th-century Venetian master and more than 100 by his contemporaries.

● AT LAST the artistic worth of the coat-hanger has been officially acknowledged. The £12,000 City of Glasgow Lord Provost's Prize — Britain's biggest visual arts award after the Turner Prize — has gone to David Mach's sculpture of a human face made from coat-hangers. It was originally commissioned to illustrate the cover of a rock album: a solo record from former Strangler, Hugh Cornwell, due for release in the new year. Five-born Mach, aged 36, said that his Cornwell sculpture involved thousands of weldings: "I wanted it to be a strange portrait and I'm pleased with the results. The money will pay for therapy for my assistant Patrick Milne, who did most of the welding." Mach's work will continue to be displayed, along with other short-listed pieces, at the McLellan Galleries in Glasgow until Sunday.

### Perth prize

THAT coveted title, "Scottish Musician of the Year", has gone to one of the newest: the Fergusson Gallery in Perth. The chairman of Scottish Heritage, Magnus

Magnusson, presented the award at a ceremony in Stone Palace. Opened earlier this year, the Fergusson Gallery houses a superb collection of 200 works by the leading Scottish Colourist artist, J.D. Fergusson, and his equally gifted partner, the dancer/choreographer, Margaret Morris. To house the collection, Perth and Kinross District Council converted an early 19th-century water-tower into a three-floor circular art gallery. Visitors have been flocking to Perth all year to savour the sybaritic Mediterranean flavour of Fergusson's painting.

● NEVER could the great Cleveland Orchestra be accused of

### ARTS BRIEFING

hiring "here today, gone tomorrow" conductors. Christoph von Dohnanyi, who was appointed music director ten years ago, has just signed a contract that will keep him in Ohio until the year 2000. By then, the stern German maestro will have served 16 years with the orchestra. But he will still have some way to go to catch up with his most illustrious predecessor: George Szell, an even sterner Hungarian maestro, was with the orchestra for 24 years, from 1946 to 1970.

### Last chance...

THE classy double-bill of vocalists Georgie Fame and Carol Kidd is the latest instalment in the "Jazz Directions" concert-hall season in Scotland. Fame has been flexing his jazz muscles on two excellent albums: *Cool Cat Blues* and *The Blues and Me*. Kidd, a magical interpreter of ballads, has just released *When I Dream*, a compilation aimed at raising funds for charities designated by her friend Terry Walle. Kidd and Fame are at City Hall, Glasgow (041-227 5511) tomorrow. Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031-668 2019) on Friday and Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122) on Saturday.

OPERA: Rodney Milnes reports on the hostile reception for Pavarotti at the first night of La Scala's season

## Knives out in Milan for Italy's great tenor

**P**avarotti booed? I suppose it had to happen, and it could probably only have happened in Italy. The story so far: he confessed in a Radio 3 interview last year that one of his few regrets was having turned down an invitation to open the Scala season early in his career (1968) in the title role of *Don Carlos*. His superstar status has, indeed, been won largely outside his native land, something that Italians tend to resent. Now, 24 years later, he has accepted the invitation, and you have to admire him for tackling so arduous an assignment for the first time now, and in such exposed circumstances.

It was the talk of Milan that the knives were out, that an anti-claque would be there to welcome him. And so they were: a cracked note in the *auto-da-fé* was greeted by the "Scala groan" — part rumble of protest, part sigh of relief, almost — and a storm of boos broke out at the subsequent curtain-call. Another little accident in the final duet, and the scene was set for a rowdy final curtain, boos and whistles mingling with doctory cheering.

In fact, how was he? For a first *Carlos* he was perfectly respectable. Of course there is more light and shade in the role than he found: years of bringing opera to the masses in arena concerts seem to have limited his ability to sing softly — one such attempt caused the second accident — and his delivery was too much at one (loud) level, often exuberantly so, but not altogether appropriately for so introverted a character. But, helpfully and passively, he took more physical part in the production than has sometimes been the case, and this fair-play orientated Englishman was definitely on his side.



Pavarotti (far right), Samuel Ramey (centre) and Daniela Dessi (far left) in a crowd scene from *Don Carlos* at La Scala

Accidents can happen to anyone. He was not the only singer to incur the pitiless audience's wrath. Daniela Dessi (Elizabeth) sounds like a classic case of a lyric soprano rashly venturing into *spinto* territory. A fine artist she may be, but her tone hardens under pressure, and the Act IV aria was beyond her. More protests. The only protest accorded Paolo Coni was a communal shrug of disbelief in critics' corner when someone shouted "bravo!" after his horribly coarse delivery of Posa's death scene.

Otherwise much pleasure. I cannot imagine Philip's music being sung more winningly than it is by Samuel Ramey: his voice is a miracle of beauty, his musicianship constantly beguiling. His impersonation has deepened since he sang this role at Covent Garden, but he still makes no attempt to appear old, and accepting Pavarotti as his son required, even by operatic standards, epic suspension of disbelief. Luciana D'Intino's Eboli was equally beautifully sung, the Veil Song needle-accurate, "O

don fatal" more memorable for the supple phrasing of the middle section than for the big guns on either side of it. Alexander Antsimov's Inquisitor was terrifyingly implacable, and Nuccia Focile's Voice from Heaven no challenge to the Trades Description Act — it was absolutely lovely.

Franco Zeffirelli's production (of Verdi's four-act version, sung in Italian translation) was traditional: efficient traffic-direction in sumptuous decor. I wasn't sure about the portable barbecue on which a pair

of heretics were roasted in the *auto-da-fé* all that song and dance for just two lost souls?

Riccardo Muti's conducting was wonderfully disciplined; the Flemish *Deputies'* tune, sung in a hushed pianissimo, was a moment to treasure. You could argue that he conducts sentences rather than paragraphs, that the almost Wagnerian sense of overview needed for *Carlos* was not always evident. But with orchestral playing and choral singing of such superb quality, there is little reason to complain.

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## LONDON

**GRACE** Anna Massey and James Laurenceau star in the new play about the politics of emigration and the Americanisation of Britain. When a landed lady and American emigrants battle over the moral high ground they come to some unexpected conclusions. *Manuscript Theatre, Swiss Cottage, NW1, 071-729 9299, opens tonight, 8pm, then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, 4pm.*

**RICHARD III** Barrie Hutter takes the lead and directs this acclaimed Northern Broadsides production (with the battle scene as a dog-dance) of Shakespeare's play. *Riverside Studios, Chap Road, Hamersmith, 081-695 3554, opens tonight, 7.45pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, 3.30pm.*

**BEATRICE HARRISON CENTENARY CONCERT** The birth of the pioneering British cellist is celebrated 100 years later. To the day, Harrison was the first British cellist to achieve an international reputation, and the first to appear at Carnegie Hall. She also had the popular habit of playing duets with the highbrows in her Sunday garden. The concert is performed by pianist John Llewellyn and cello Julian Lloyd Webber playing works dedicated to her (Debut's Sonata) and written for her (Grieg's Sonata in C). *Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1, 071-352 2141, tonight.*

**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** The orchestra under Claudio Poldini performs Haydn's *Sinfonia Concertante*. *Op 84 and Beethoven's*

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Heather Allison

**Symphony No 9 (Choral)** with Susan Bullock, soprano, Susan Bullock, contralto, Glenn Winstead, tenor, and William Sharratt, bass. *Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 071-828 8800, tonight, 7.30pm.*

**HANSEL AND GRETEL** David Pountney's joyously unromantic production of the story of a boy and a witch. *Phoenix Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1, 071-838 8800, tonight, 7.30pm.*

**CALL BLISS** A young psychological thriller about an encounter between two men on a Portsmouth beach. The work is performed by Men A2, a company devoted to exploring the way men use the theatre and the culture they create. *ICA, The Mall, SW1, 071-930 3647, tonight, 8pm.*

**SHAKY** Sharon Stephens, these days on last name terms with her legion of fans, heads for the capital on the last leg of her tour. *Donmar Warehouse, 111, Tottenham Court Road, W1, 071-930 8845, tonight, 8pm.*

## REGIONAL

**WISSECH** The award-winning play, *The Ballad of the Lonesome Hat*.

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of the theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

**OUR SONGS** Peter O'Toole in *Keith Waterhouse's* play about a man's life and his relationship with a young woman. *Donmar Warehouse, 111, Tottenham Court Road, W1, 071-930 8845, tonight, 8pm.*

**RADIO TIMES** Tony Salway in a fun trip down Memory Lane. *Donmar Warehouse, 111, Tottenham Court Road, W1, 071-930 8845, tonight, 8pm.*

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## OPERA: Operetta triumphs in Dublin; 'authentic' Purcell; and neglected Nielsen

## Sparkling Strauss but rotten Rossini

Die Fledermaus  
L'italiana in Algeri  
Gaiety Theatre, Dublin

TIMES are hard everywhere. The Dublin Grand Opera Society's Opera Ireland winter season was originally to have featured productions of *L'italiana in Algeri*, just in time for Rossini's bicentenary year, and *Turandot*. Money could not be found for the Puccini, and in its place concert performances of *Die Fledermaus* were scheduled.

Somewhat inevitably, the operetta turned out to be the hit. It was far more than a concert: soloists and chorus brought their own costumes and evening dress (every seamstress in Dublin must have been stitching overtime), vestigial sets were devised, and on minimal rehearsal the producer Paul Baillie welded his disparate but experienced cast into a more or less coherent performance. Indeed, after last year's witless travesty at the Coliseum, it was nice to be reminded what a good, sharp piece it is.

For here was a demonstration, as if one were needed, that if the conductor is right and the singers are right, then the opera will work. Albert Rosen certainly knows how *Fledermaus* should go — diabolical spirit, genuine as opposed to ersatz Viennese rubato in the overture, but with the RTE Concert Orchestra just a little too loud for a little too much of the time.

Valerie Masterson was the Rosalinde, the very picture of a respectable wife planning a week of adultery with beady determination. She sang, as ever, with innate style and musicianship, but for once exercised a little caution here and there. There was a sparky Irish Adele from Mary Hegarty, an uproarious Froch from Thomas Lawlor with a bagful of topical Dublin jokes, and a smoothly-voiced Orlafsky from Therese Feighan.

The American tenor Stephen O'Mara sang Eisenstein. His repertoire also includes Radames, Manrico and Calaf, and this can hardly have been representative of his capabilities. But he has a powerful, securely placed voice and an easy stage manner, and we must hear more of him.

There was one delicious, not to say surrealist surprise. When the lights dimmed for the ballet, instead of yet another "Frühlingssymphonie" or "Thunder and Lightning", the flower of Dublin's young dancers slouched on to do an elaborate Apache routine to a large chunk of Gertrude's *Art American* in Paris. The orchestra sounded almost as surprised as the audience. Whoever had this idea is some kind of genius — it can never have happened before, and I hope it happens again.

*L'italiana in Algeri*, I fear, did little honour to Rossini. In Tim Coleman's production the action was updated to the time of the French-Algerian conflict. Mustafa was a hotel-keeper and part-time terrorist. Isabella arrived in a Turin Rossini charabanc. Taddeo was a pot-smoking Sixties hippie, and Lindoro a kidnapped oil-worker. It is hard to decide which was the more yawn-inducing, the "concept" or the leaden vulgarity with which it was executed. There may be those who believe that Rossini was prophetically writing music for *The Benny Hill Show*, but I am not one of them.

There was a sad lack of charm and wit in Guido Ajmone-Marsan's straight-



Updated Rossini: Eric Roberts, Loretta Bybee, Patryk Wroblewski

laced conducting, and the evening was saved from total disaster only by three impressive American guests, all of whom would have shone even more brightly with proper musical and dramatic support. Loretta Bybee has ideally fitting mezzo tone and the agility for Isabella. Mark Calkins belted a melodious high tenor as Lindoro, and by the end of the run will doubtless

sing the treacherous opening cavatina as beautifully as he did the rest. Patryk Wroblewski's Taddeo was crisply projected and neatly sung. The Bulgarian bass Valentin Pechynov may be a fine Mephistopheles, but was spectacularly miscast as Mustafa. Not a happy evening.

RODNEY MILNES

## Double trouble in ancient Carthage

Dido and Aeneas  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

AS THE chorus in *Dido and Aeneas* puts it "Great minds against themselves conspire". And so the cure they most desire. Few stage directors of Purcell's tragic masterpiece take these words quite as earnestly as Tom Hawkes does. His English Bach Festival staging has the same singer, Della Jones, portraying both Dido and the Sorceress. In other words, she alternates between playing the proud Queen of Carthage and then the diabolical hag who plots her downfall by hoodwinking the gormless Aeneas.

What is more, the Queen's courtiers turn *doppelgänger* in solidarity. A quick dash backstage for masks and lurid eye make-up, and out they all come as assorted witches.

You can look at this four ways. The historically minded will see it as a clever allusion to the "masque versus anti-masque" structure pervading much 17th-century English drama. Cynics will point out that it saves money. Others will applaud a staging that makes so explicit the fact that Dido's death is brought about by the tragic flaws within the queen herself.

and not by the crude supernatural hit-squad that has worried fastidious opera critics for decades. In this staging, she is quite literally "her own worst enemy".

And the double-role also provides a virtuoso test for an accomplished actor/singer. Jones, never one to undersell a consonant, was splendidly histrionic and cheery as the Sorceress, while mustering heavy-duty pathos in Dido's great lament. Only occasionally did the forgetful witch that she was wearing, and become histrionic as Dido too. Her look of Grand Guignol horror as Aeneas had the boat's head brought in on a spear would not have disgraced a silent German movie of the most expressionist kind.

How did this melodramatic central performance fit into the production as a whole? Uneasily is the answer. Off to the left, the "English Bach Festival Baroque Ensemble", directed from the

harpichord by David Wray, added all manner of ornamentation without quite managing to conceal imperfect intonation and whining textures.

On stage, the costumes were flamboyant of Purcell's period, the tableaux picturesque, and the dancing nimble, especially by the knee-slapping, phlegm-swinging sailors. Some of the solo singing impressed; the beefy-toned Nigel Leeson-Williams made a particularly good fist of Aeneas. But Purcell's choruses were surely meant for chorus, not solo voices. Dido should have a court, not a knitting-circle.

The production boasted another novelty: it started with a staging of Dido's Prologue, an inconsequential allegory involving Phoebus, Venus, assorted nymphs and shepherds, and Triton, decked out like a kind of Restoration Gary Glitter. Unfortunately, it didn't involve Purcell's original music, which is lost. Expect at least a dozen competing "reconstructions" to appear before 1995. Purcell's tercentenary.

RICHARD MORRISON



Della Jones as Dido: she also sang the role of the Sorceress

SIBELIUS's youthful opera *The Maiden in the Tower* proved, as reported on this page last















## AC Milan aim to continue spree

## Eindhoven rely on Faber to tame lethal van Basten

FROM DAVID MILLER IN EINDHOVEN

ERNST Faber, an untested 20-year-old in his first season with PSV Eindhoven, the club of the multi-national electronics firm, Philips, tonight has the job of attempting to halt the most lethal attacker in European football.

Marco van Basten, of AC Milan, will be hoping to start where he left off in the last European Champions League match, in which he scored all the goals in the 4-0 win over IFK Gothenburg.

PSV have problems in defence so it may well be that Milan will continue the spree that has seen them score 30 goals in 11 Italian league matches this season — an avalanche, by Italian standards, unprecedented since the war.

With van Tiggelein suspended after being sent off in the

European fixture against FC Porto — for a second yellow card in the 2-2 draw — Faber is given the role of "stopper". With van Aerle and de Jong both injured, Beertens, another youngster inexperienced at international level, is included at right back.

PSV were fortunate to hold Porto, with van Breukelen, their goalkeeper, saving at least four other scoring attempts.

The transformation created by the alteration of the backpass law has had its effect in Holland, too.

Hans Westerhof, who succeeded Bobby Robson as PSV coach, finds his team at the top of the Dutch table with an even more impressive goal aggregate than Milan's — 41 in 14 matches — a six-point lead and only one defeat.

Yet PSV have other problems besides defence. Kieft, who will partner Romario, the Brazilian, in attack, is about to take a month or more away from the game to rest a chronic knee injury.

Romario scored both goals against Porto and, previously, all three in the 3-0 second round, second leg win over AEK Athens.

Westerhof said that if he gets the chance, Romario can score more than van Basten, though that fanciful possibility seems unlikely.

Milan have Gullit back in their attack in place of Papin, of France, who played against Gothenburg. Gullit has also announced this week that he is again willing to be considered for the national team after missing the World Cup qualifying matches against Norway and Poland.

The Holland squad to meet Turkey next week is announced tomorrow.

Milan are expected to be at full strength, with Rijkaard returning after missing the 1-1 home draw with Udinese on Sunday with a knee injury.

During the European championship finals in Sweden last summer, it seemed that the Milan trio were all over the hill, especially the evening that Holland succumbed to Denmark.

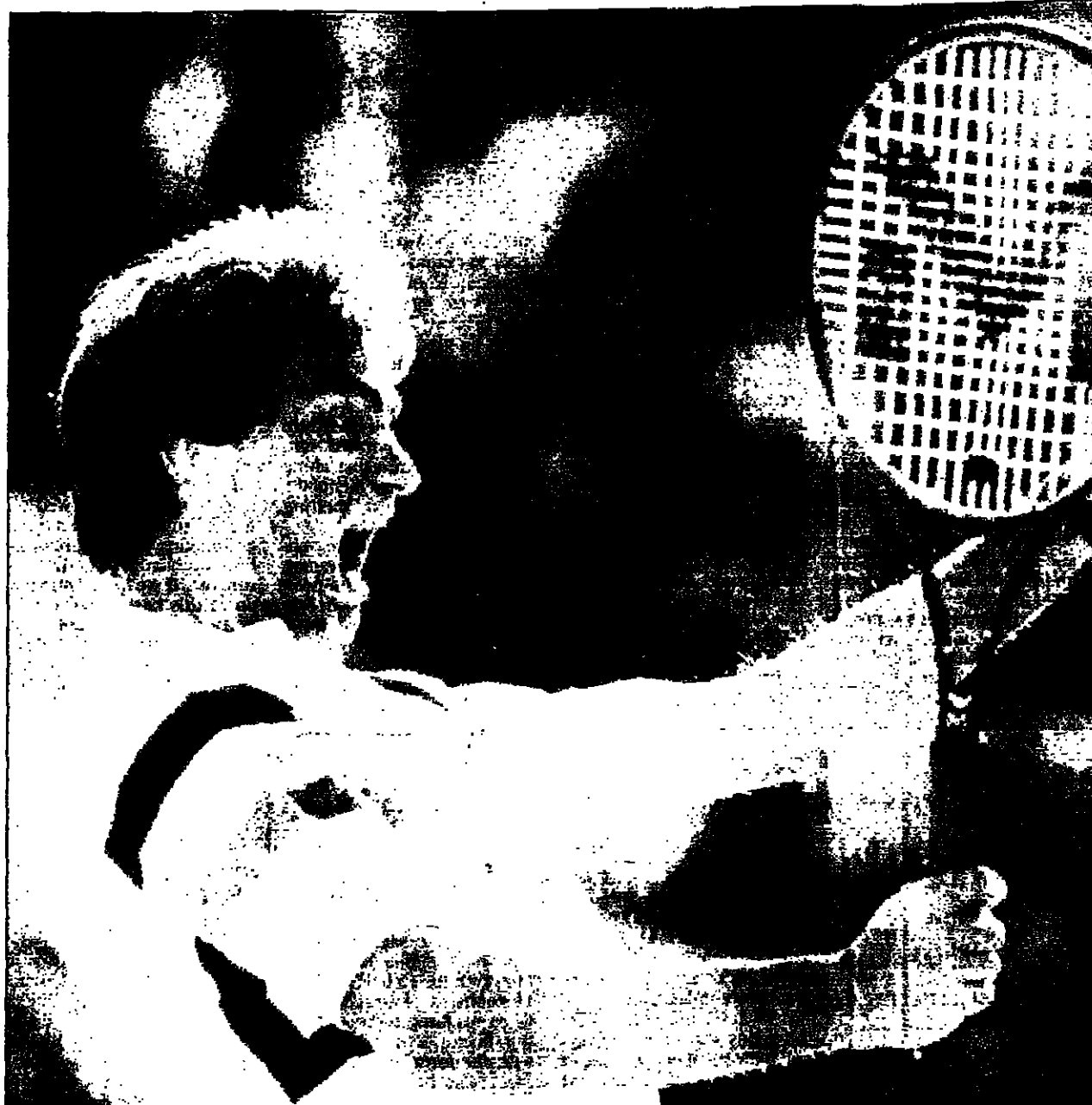
Yet van Basten, assisted by the law change, has experienced a renaissance and will be hoping to add to two previous European Cup victories.

Jaime Magalhães, the Porto midfielder, misses the other group B match against Gothenburg in Sweden through suspension.

Antonio Inacio, Porto's assistant coach, said: "IFK are a fast team and I feel it will be a balanced game. I think they are stronger than PSV."

Gothenburg have the disadvantage of not having played any league matches since October, when the Swedish season ended. They lost 4-2 against FC Copenhagen in Denmark last week, with both Johnny Ekstrand and Patrik Bengtsson hobbling off the field.

Roger Gustafsson, the IFK coach, is also uncertain whether an eye injury sustained by Stefan Rehn, the midfielder player, will clear up in time.



Power play: Leconte fought back after losing the first set in Munich to storm the net and sweep Ferreira aside

## Leconte recovers to spring surprise

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

HENRI Leconte, that grand old master of surprise, sprang the first upset on the opening day of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich yesterday. Not that his 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 defeat of the No. 5 seed, Wayne Ferreira, will rank very highly on the long list of the Frenchman's eccentricities.

Freshness and motivation count for more than anything at this late stage of the year and Leconte, who has not played a competitive match for a month, has plenty of both.

Leconte is never more dangerous than when supposedly rusty after a lay-off, as Pete Sampras, his victim in the Davis Cup final in Lyons 12 months ago and a potential quarter-final opponent here, will testify. The American

meets Alex Volkov, another hit-or-miss performer in the first round today.

With \$100,000 (£62,500) already safely in the kitty, Leconte, who qualified largely on his thrilling run to the semi-finals of the French Open, did not need much encouragement to treble his money.

Quarter-final losers on this money-go-round earn \$300,000 and a succession of injuries over the past three years, the latest of them a strained Achilles tendon suffered at the Paris Open in early November, has suggested that the left-hander's working days on court are nearing an end. One final jackpot would not go amiss.

Leconte took a set to find his rhythm against the promising South African, who reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open and won the Stella Artois at Queen's early in the year. Ferreira broke twice, in the seventh and ninth games, to win the first set, but was broken himself to go 4-3 down in the second and, as Leconte stormed the net, in time-honoured fashion and with ever-increasing confidence, did not win another game in the match. The Frenchman raced through the final set in a mere 20 minutes.

In the opening match today, John McEnroe takes on Nicolas Pietrangeli, a replacement for the injured Ivan Lendl. The Swede beat McEnroe — and Michael Chang — in Paris and has shown little sign

of being overawed by the prospect of ending McEnroe's full-time career.

For McEnroe, much will depend on how much emotion he has left after his marital traumas, quite apart from the Davis Cup, while Wimbledon and the French Open apart, Andre Agassi's stays in Europe tend to be short and sharp. The Wimbledon champion plays Chang, a finalist here last year.

RESULTS: H Leconte (F) bt W Ferreira (SA), 3-6, 6-3, 6-0; P Korda (CZ) bt W Masur (USA), 2-6, 7-5, 6-4; G Harmanov (CRO) bt G Sargis (FR), 7-5, 6-4.

□ Munich: A women's version of the Grand Slam Cup, the richest tennis tournament, could be established by 1995, Axel Meyer-Woelken, the organiser of the men's event, said yesterday. (Reuters)

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## SNOOKER

## Wattana continues run against Parrott

BY PHIL YATES



Wattana: challenging

JAMES Wattana, of Thailand, the only player challenging the domination of snooker's "big four", led John Parrott 6-2 after the first session of their best-of-17-frame Coaltie World Matchplay quarter-final at The Dome, in Doncaster, yesterday.

Wattana's two tournament successes this year have both come at the expense of Parrott. He beat Parrott 9-3 in the final of the Strachan Open in March and 10-5 to capture the Humo Belgian Masters title in Antwerp last month.

And, during the Mercantile Classic in January, Wattana inflicted the first, and only, whitewash of Parrott's nine-year professional career.

Parrott, whose manager, Phil Miller, is recovering after undergoing quadruple bypass surgery last week, made a good start when he fluked a red to initiate a decisive 53 break in the first frame and then moved 2-0 ahead.

Breaks of 41, 65 and 48 assisted Wattana as he won the next four frames for 4-2. Parrott, looking ragged and prone to errors, was presented

with an obvious chance to win the seventh frame but, with his break having reached 30, he missed a simple red and Wattana replied with 73 to guarantee an advantage at the interval.

Wattana secured the closing frame of the afternoon with a run of 43 to further strengthen his position. He needs three of the remaining nine frames to reach a semi-final meeting with either Stephen Hendry or Alan McManus, who play their quarter-final today.

RESULTS: Quarter final: J Wattana (Tha) leads J Parrott (Eng), 6-2.

## Football faces threat from lottery

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

FOOTBALL stands to lose up to £40 million a year from the introduction of a national lottery, MPs were warned last night by Malcolm Davidson, the managing director of Littlewoods Pools.

Davidson said that without five key changes to the lottery bill, enabling fair competition, football would suffer, thousands of jobs would be put at risk and annual tax revenues of £315 million would be jeopardised.

Davidson added that, contrary to ministerial assurances, overseas evidence suggested that when a national lottery was given a head-start over long-odds betting, football pools went into "serious and irreversible decline". He told the all-party football committee that research commissioned from consultants Coopers & Lybrand showed that without a level playing field, Littlewoods would lose 40 per cent of turnover and

Vernons and Zetters could be wiped out.

Davidson said the lottery bill needed five changes to ensure fair competition: allowing pools coupons to be collected from shops; the rolling-over of jackpots from week to week; allowing the promotion of pools as a "lucky numbers" game; equal treatment of the lottery and the pools for tax purposes; and permitting pools firms to advertise on television.

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## Lewis and Bowe engage in new war of words

THE world heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe, has turned his attention away from Lennox Lewis and instead plans three defences against other opponents within the first six months of next year, according to his manager, Rock Newman.

"We offered them [Lewis's management] two scenarios and in a very cowardly way they turned down both offers," Newman said at a boxing gala in New York on Monday night. "They don't want to fight Bowe."

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, said he was offended by Newman's "pursuit of \$3 million for Lewis." "I can't do that," that's insulting," Maloney said. "That just tells me he's a coward." Maloney wants at least £5 million, or 25 per cent of the purse, for Lewis, the official No. 1 contender. "He's the biggest coward to be heavyweight champion," he said of Bowe.

Bowe risks losing the World Boxing Council title if he does not make his first defence against Lewis, who won an eliminator by stopping Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in London in October. But Bowe still defended Newman.

"Everything is in their hands," Bowe, who claimed the undisputed title last month with a unanimous decision against Evander Holyfield, said. "I would like to fight Lennox, but I'm not going to stop fighting just because Lennox Lewis says no."

Lewis was unimpressed. "He's chicken Bowe," he said. "It doesn't make me angry. The people know who the real champ is. They will quickly lose respect for the present champ. He's just a clump champ."

Lewis suggested that Bowe's busy schedule was just his way of running away. "I have to try to catch up with him," he said. "He's got this fake facade about him that he wants to box me. Here I am and giving him the opportunity, but he doesn't want to take the bait."

Newman said Bowe's first title defence would be a television special timed to take place during half-time of the American football Super Bowl on January 31, with another fight to come in March. Probable opponents for either of those fights are Alex Garcia, Michael Dokes and Alex Stewart, Newman said. The third bout would be in May or June, most likely against Ray Mercer.

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## FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL	
Anglo-Italian Cup Group A	
BAR (Capocchia 3, 2)	3 BENEVENTO (M) 0
TRIESTE (M)	0 BRESCIA (M) 1
4-0	
UEFA CUP: Third round, second leg	
Barcelona 2, Moscow Dynamo 0 (P)	
VALDARVA: FA Trophy: Third qualifying round replay: Postponed: Wembley v Sheffield	
DIADORA LEAGUE: League Cup: Third round: Postponed: Arsenal v Everton; Bolton v Walsley Wood	
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Bristol Manor Farm v Mansfield	
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Postponed: Watford v Gillingham	
KENNEL LEAGUE: Cup: Preliminary round: Postponed: Newtown v Holywell	
Late results on Monday	
PREMIER LEAGUE: Everton 2, Liverpool 1	
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Swenborg 0, Harrow 0. First division: Purfleet 2, Dorking 2	
SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chalfont 1, Dover 1	
PONTING LEAGUE: First division: Loughborough 0, Sheffield United 1. Stoke 1, Leam 0	
ENGLISH SCHOOLS BRITISH GAS TROPHY: Fourth round: Bristol 2, North Herts 2. Schools MATCH: Repton 1, Malvern 1	
AMERICAN FOOTBALL	
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Houston Oilers 24, Chicago Bears 7	
ATHLETICS	
PALERMO, Sicily: Marathon: 1, D Karel (CZ), 2hr 11min 47sec; 2, J Morero (SP), 2:13:31; 3, S Oskanen (FIN), 2:14:12	
ARCHERY	
WASHINGTON-ON-DUNSMORE: National junior indoor recurve championships: Boys Under-16: R Nash (Rich), 57/60; Under-18: D Roberts (Morg), 67/71; Under-14: R Warrington (City of Leicester), 54/4; Under-12: D Manning (Woking), 45/6; Champion: Roberts. Girls: Under-18: E Connolly (Essex), 55/58; Under-16: L Sweeney (Birmingham), 57/58; Under-14: L Bay (Bristol), 48/50; Champion: Sweeney	
RUGBY UNION	
UNIVERSITY MATCHES: Bowring Bowl: Oxford 11, Cambridge 10 (at Twickenham); Bowring Plate: Oxford Under-21 10 (first); Worcester, Bristol, Cambridge Under-21 31 (first); Worcester, Northampton, Brown, Romford: conversion: Thompson; penalty goals: Kennedy, Thompson 2 (at Stoop Memorial ground)	
UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Hampshire 18, Army 6	
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Clifton 6, King's	

## REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Regional champions: Southern Counties 8 Hyde, M Andrews, N Sanson, E Connolly	
BADMINTON	
CARLTON: Welsh open championships: Final: Marc A Nelson (Swan) bt J Kowalski (Card), 15-10, 15-10; Winner: S Lewis (Devon) bt A Hurmy (Hants), 11-6, 11-1	
BOXING	
LOS ANGELES: WBC light-flyweight championship: Humberto Gonzalez (Mex, holder) bt Malchor Odo Castro (Mex), 10-9, 9-7, 9-5	
HOCKEY	
SWINDON: English indoor championships: West region qualifier: First: Swindon 12, RAF Support Command 1	
NORWICH UNION EAST SUPER INDOOR LEAGUE (positions after first session): Swindon, Old Londonians 12-5; Albion, 9; Polesden, 9; Chelmsford, 9; Colney, 9; Chelmsford, 3; Harrogate, 3; Market Deeping, 3; Cambridge City, 0	
ICE HOCKEY	
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Washington Capitals 6, Ottawa Senators 2; Quebec Nordiques 4, Buffalo Sabres 2; New York Islanders 6, Tampa Bay Lightning 1; Calgary Flames 6, Edmonton Oilers 3; Vancouver Canucks 4, St Louis Blues 3	
REAL TENNIS	
OXFORD: Over-40 open singles: Semi-finals: C Richardson bt J Johnson, 6-0, 6-4; K Stedden bt A Clive, 6-5, 6-5; Final: Richardson bt Stedden, 6-2, 6-1	
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## Yeltsin scales the heights

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, has been awarded the Olympic Gold Order by the International Olympic Committee, the IOC's highest award.

The decision, announced in Lausanne yesterday by the IOC executive board, was apparently in recognition of Yeltsin's help in ensuring that the former Soviet republics competed as a single Unified Team at Barcelona.

□ Boxing's Olympic future may be guaranteed by an incident-free world amateur championships in Finland in May.

**Pair honoured**

Athletics: Linford Christie's Olympic 100 metres triumph won him the London AC Centenary Trophy from the British Athletic Federation yesterday. Sally Gunnell's 400 metres hurdles victory won her the equivalent women's award.

**Backing for two**

Badminton: Racket manufacturers Prince (UK) are backing the Wimbledon Open and Surrey Open for the next three years.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

**Princess and president move towards peace**

BY DAVID POWELL

THE Princess Royal and Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), went some way towards settling their differences yesterday.

Three years ago, the Princess Royal let it be known that she did not approve of Nebiolo's autocratic style. Yesterday, they held a one-hour meeting at Buckingham Palace that a spokeswoman said was "very cordial".

In April 1989, Princess Anne was upset at Nebiolo's handling of a meeting of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

"Why is the chair persistently denying the will of the meeting?" she was reported to have said.

Over the next six months, speculation grew that she would oppose him as president of the ASOIF. A Granada Television *World in Action* programme, *Primo and the Princess*, which was screened in October that year, questioned Nebiolo's methods and observed that Princess Anne was out to "topple him".

In the end, however, she

## Boffins fail to explain damage

BY KEITH WHEATLEY

EXTENSIVE laboratory tests have failed to explain a repeated and potentially dangerous component failure among the British Steel fleet. Metallurgists have attempted to identify the problem.

Three out of ten yachts have now experienced a complete fracture of the forestay bottlescrew within the last 48 hours. Group 4 Securitas has suffered the same breakage twice since leaving Rio de Janeiro three weeks ago. The other victims are Coopers & Lybrand and Hofbrau Lager.

Miraculously, none of the yachts has lost its mast. With the fleet in the Southern Ocean and the nearest land 1,200 miles away, the consequences could be dire. The forestay is the "guy-wire" running from masthead to bow. The bottlescrew connects it to the deck.

According to Andrew Roberts, the Challenge director — responsible for much of the rig design — the minimum breaking load of the stainless steel unit is more than 16 tons. This should be well in excess of any loads imposed in even the worst storms; and the weather since Cape Horn has been relatively benign.

"However, the relentless power to windward in gusts of up to 50 knots imposes considerable shock loads which create a jack-hammer effect on hull and rig," Roberts said. Every bottlescrew will be replaced with a new and stronger design at the Hobart stopover.

"It is a complete and utter mystery to me," Peter Lucas, the proprietor of the Dartmouth firm of Peter Lucas Rigging, which fitted the masts into the steel 67th yacht, said. "No expense was spared to get the absolute best design and the best materials. These items cost over £400 each."

"In this business, we see a lot of fairly shoddy components and even with the worst of them bottlescrew failure is fairly rare. We're just baffled."

Scientists from manufacturers Norseman-Gibb have been analysing the bottlescrew that failed on Group 4 two weeks and which was replaced by a component flown out from Britain.

Roberts has faxed the fleet recommending that they replace the forestay bottlescrew with one from the less highly-stressed aft inner shrouds.

This unit, in turn, is replaced by miscellaneous shackles and "extra kirk".

Failures of this sort are so rare that no ocean-racing yacht would normally carry a replacement bottlescrew. Wherever the fault lies, it will not impart confidence to those at sea in the bleak wastes of the Southern Ocean.



- BBC1**
- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (11286) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (40101170)  
9.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Silk and guests discuss a topical subject (205644) 9.45 **Ross King** hosts the quiz show (18077539)  
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (3809644) 10.05 **Playdays**, For the very young (1) (3415877)  
10.30 **Good Morning**... with **Anne and Nick**, The family magazine show, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen, featuring Will Hanrahan on consumer affairs and agony aunt Claire Rayner's phone-in (s) including at 11.00, 12.00 **News**, regional news and weather (48968712) 12.15 **Pebble Mill** with Judi Spiers (s) (8783986) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (88817354)  
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton (Cee-fax) Weather (34064)  
1.30 **Neighbours**, (Cee-fax) (s) (21258712)  
1.50 **Eldorado**, Monday's episode (1), (Cee-fax) (s) (37505267)  
2.20 **Gold for Gold**, The six remaining semi-finalists in the European quiz compete for a place in the final (s) (39352064)  
2.45 **The Hogan Family**, American comedy series (1) (3833441)  
3.10 **Pinwheel**, Roy Castle and Maggie Philbin report on ageism in the National Health Service, and on how the Alexander Technique can transform your life (s) (4657484)  
3.50 **Children's BBC**, **Dooby Dooby Euro Tour**, Puppet music show (s) (6764183) 3.55 **Radio Roo**, Episode 11 of a 13-part comedy drama (1) (s) (5348151) 4.10 **The New Year's Eve Show**, Cartoon fun (1) (7315286) 4.20 **Watt on Earth**, Eighth of a 12-part science-fiction comedy thriller (s) (2213489) 4.35 **Ipsa Facta**, Cindy Lancaster reports on boredom (Cee-fax) (s) (5018267) 5.00 **Newsround** (2707267) 5.10 **Grange Hill**, Drama series set in a comprehensive school (1), (Cee-fax) (s) (8450793)  
5.35 **News**, (Cee-fax) (s) (459815), Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey (Cee-fax) Weather (248)  
6.30 **Regional News** magazines (828), Northern Ireland: Neighbours (1), (Cee-fax) (s)  
7.00 **Eldorado**, Marcus wants Peter back. Starring Jesse Birdsall and Sandra Sandri (Cee-fax) (s) (2267)  
7.30 **Tomorrow's World**, Judith Hann reports from Portugal on a new treatment for liver disease, and there is news of a faster way to discover the secrets of an aircraft's black box (Cee-fax) (s) (712)  
8.00 **The Two Ronnies**, A repeat episode from 1983, starring Messrs Corbett and Barker, who are joined by Leslie Ash and Robin Parkinson in a spoof film, *Raiders of the Last Ark*. Elaine Paige provides the musical interlude (1) (38826)  
8.50 **Points of View** presented by Anne Robinson (s) (198236)  
9.00 **Party Political Broadcast** by the Labour party (197557)  
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Marilyn Lewis (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (4204)



A good welcome: Michael Palin is nearly there (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Pole to Pole: Bitter End**, Arriving in Cape Town, Michael Palin and his film crew are met with the news that there are no berths on the ship sailing to the Antarctic. Will Palin complete the last leg of his journey from the top of the world to the bottom? (58915)  
10.20 **Film: The Guardian** (1994), Louis Gossett Jr stars in this complex thriller from the creators of *Columbo*. The frightened tenants of a Manhattan apartment block hire a security guard following a brutal murder. With Martin Sheen. Directed by David Greene (5075170)  
11.50 **Weather** (389996), Ends at 11.55  
2.15-3.15am **BBC Select: Aotearoa Television** (80845); 4.00 **TV** Ends - France Panoramas (5174294), Ends at 8.00

**VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode**  
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- BBC2**
- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (5321880) 8.15 **Westminster** (5427267)  
9.00 **Rosie**, The death of Rosie Larkin, five, is helping doctors to find a cure for childhood cancers (40064)  
9.30 **Film: Shadow of the Thin Man** (1941, b/w), The fourth instalment in the *Thin Man* series stars Myrna Loy and William Powell as detectives. Directed by Major W.S. Van Dyke (15721557)  
11.05 **Film: Seven Wives** (1965), The John Ford season continues with the director's last film, about missionaries in 1935 China. Starring Anne Bancroft, Flora Robson and Margaret Leighton (2665538)  
12.30 **Michael Barry's Choice**, Choice of recipes (43831373)  
12.40 **Great Little Britain's**, Slow train to Olympia (1), (Cee-fax) (1373534) 1.20 **Greenclaws**, Fun for children (1) (40456538)  
1.35 **Another War, Another Peace: A Better Life**, The rebirth of European cities from the ashes of the second world war (3751940)  
2.00 **News and weather** (9588441) followed by *Look Stranger*, The work of Mary Martin, the Cornish landscape artist (1) (44674459)  
2.35 **Countryfile**, Rural news with John Craven (1) (3842199)  
3.00 **News and weather** (7884538) followed by *Westminster Live* (9244793) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (8047151)  
4.00 **Catchword**, Paul Cooze hosts the word game (s) (441)  
4.30 **Behind the Headlines**, Linda Agran asks if there is such a thing as the male menopause (s) (625) 5.00 **Killers in the Cupboard**, Documentary about growth of solvent abuse (3373)  
5.30 **The History Man**, Geovix in mine in Cornwall (1) (588644) 5.35 **Landscape of England**, W.G. Hoskins explores Kent (1) (457537)  
6.00 **Star Trek: Spock** (Leonard Nimoy) is marooned on a hostile planet (1), (Cee-fax) (893844)  
6.50 **Def II: Rough Guide to the World's Islands**, Magenta De Vine and Rajan Datta visit Mallorca, Formentera and Ibiza (s) (217480)  
7.40 **Open Space: The Violence Must Cease**  
● **CHOICE**, Sheldon "Curlew" Thomas is the head of Brother, a collective of British rap and reggae artists. He was moved to make this programme, about the rising tide of gun violence among the African-Caribbean community, after seeing a man shot at an east London night club. It is a passionate and stylish film, which edits its interviews so smoothly that one person's sentence is often finished by someone else. This comedy suggests that the contributors are speaking with one voice. This voice says that violence, which is often related to drug dealing, stems from social deprivation. The point is underlined with a visit to Moss Side, Manchester, where 43 per cent of young blacks are unemployed. A local newspaper editor says: "Guns are fired for petty little things and all because people have no hope." (Cee-fax) (412537)  
8.10 **Bookroom**, *Love in a Cold Climate*  
● **CHOICE**, Daisy Goodwin's entertaining film explores notions of love through the work of ten contemporary poets. The charm of the film is that every contribution is different and Goodwin wisely lets the contributors speak for themselves rather than trying to draw overall conclusions. In any case, love poetry is a personal and private affair, though this does not prevent it being unexpected news. Ian Duhig's wife was understandably less than bowled over by the poem he has written for her in which she is compared to half a turnip and the bottom of a lake. The programme is roughly structured around examples of first love, married love, betrayed love and loss, but the individual contributions are larger than the whole. Among the more memorable are those of Wendy Cope, Carol Ann Duffy, Tony Harrison and Gavin Ewart (893712)



First love, married love and poetry: Wendy Cope (8.10pm)

- 9.00 **M\*A\*S\*H**, Hawkeye (Alan Alda) requisitions supplies for an orphanage (1) (456170) 9.25 **Prisoners of Conscience**, Phil Collins campaigns for human rights (502625)  
9.30 **Unnatural Pursuit**, I Don't Do Cuddles, In the second and final part of Simon Gray's musical comedy fantasy, Harriet Pant is slowly driving herself mad. Starring Alan Bates (Cee-fax) (s) (49712)  
10.30 **Party Political Broadcast** by the Labour party (456508)  
10.35 **Newsnight** (510170) 11.20 **Prisoners of Conscience** (1) (586422) 11.25 **Edvard Munch**, Portrait of the artist (1) (125286)  
12.15am **Behind the Headlines** (as 4.30pm) (s) (19671) 12.45 **Weather**
- WOOD RIVER** (847782) 1.50 **Videoflash** (9797730) 2.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 2.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 3.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 3.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 4.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 4.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 5.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 5.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 6.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 6.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 7.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 7.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 8.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 8.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 9.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 9.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 10.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 10.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 11.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 11.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 12.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 12.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 1.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 1.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 2.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 2.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 3.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 3.45 **Home and Away** (777782) 4.15 **Home and Away** (777782) 4.45 **Home 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Davies makes light of kicking blues as Oxford lose momentum in University rugby match at Twickenham

## Cambridge come strong to steal the honours

Cambridge University.. 19  
Oxford University..... 11By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SELDOM can a University rugby match, notoriously one of the hardest contests in the calendar, have drifted so completely away as it did from Oxford at Twickenham yesterday. They started like lions and finished like lambs as the Bowring Bowl, for the first time in six years, remained with the holders.

Cambridge's success, their 51st in 111 matches, was founded firmly on their back row and midfield tackling in the best traditions of the fixture. Oxford's strength and experience in just those areas had made them pre-match favourites, but, once again, favouritism proved a curse.

This match is about character, too. Oxford have proved that, most recently in 1986 and 1990, but here, the steely resolve was light blue. The scoreline owed much to the goal-kicking of Lloyd Davies, who thus followed a proud family tradition. Older brothers Graham and Adrian preceded him as blues — indeed, Adrian Davies scored 34 points in his four University matches — and Lloyd missed only one kick, which hit an upright. Training with David Alred, the kicking coach at Bath to Stuart Barnes and Jonathan Webb, paid off with a vengeance.

Cambridge's hard inner core shone brightest at the start on a sharp, dry afternoon when it took them 13 minutes to glimpse the Oxford 22. It

was a remarkable spell of pressure from the Dark Blues, which earned them nothing and in the final analysis may have contributed to the way they folded in the final quarter, after the Cambridge try.

The crucial period came early in the second half after Oxford had taken the lead with an outstanding score that owed everything to timing. From a scrum on the Cambridge 22, Nasser, packing at No. 8, picked up and fed du Toit on the blind side so sweetly that the ball was in the hands of Spence before the defence was aware of the threat to the corner.

At 11-9 to Oxford, the match remained in the balance. Errors abounded, the nervous strain particularly evident among the respective back divisions, and Oxford cracked first. Du Toit fumbled behind a scrum, the ball was played offside and Oxford were in disarray against two quickly taken free kicks.

The second led to a collapsed maul and Davies kicked his second penalty goal. Two minutes later, Cambridge rammed home their advantage when Peters roared away from a lineout. Though he was tackled short, Jenkins supported and the ball went left to Batstone who outflanked the defence.

All Oxford's experience seemed to drain away. Three Irish selectors had come to watch Malone, their stand-off half, but his supply of ball had deteriorated. He had scope for a final thrust in the nine minutes of injury time played by Ed Morrison, but lacked the support that Cambridge always offered the ball carrier.

In contrast, Price played a simple but effective game. He kicked high, nibbled away himself, or found the powerful Hopley.

Given that Price's boot had been affected early on by a nasty slice, it was a masterful display. He signalled his composure by the break, clean as a whistle, which gave Davies the chance to drop the goal which opened the scoring. By half-time, two more dropped goals had contributed to the 6-6 scoreline, Malone adding a close-range penalty goal.

Davies nudged Cambridge ahead from the penalty harshly awarded against David O'Mahony's late tackle, but Spence's try gave Oxford the lift they needed. It was not enough. Dix and Peters pegged back Oxford at the lineout, the back row and de Maid wrapped a blanket round any Oxford initiative and Lumsden, a lonely figure on the right wing, limped off with a hamstring injury.

Currie therefore emulated his late father, John, by winning a blue; he, at least, had something to remember.

SCORERS: Cambridge University: Try: Batstone. Conversion: Davies. Penalty goals: Davies (2). Dropped goals: Davies. Flood. Oxford University: Try: Spence. Penalty goal: Malone. Dropped goal: Malone.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: I. Davies (Penalty CS and St Edmund's); S. A. Burns (St Dunstons and Magdalen); J. P. Flood (Sturminster and St Edmund's); D. P. Hopley (Harrow and Hughes Hall); G. R. D. Batstone (Epsom and Downing); J. L. Price (Hertford CS and St Edmund's); M. W. de Maid (Lady Mary HS, Cardiff and Hughes Hall); D. R. Perrett (Pinner and Islington); A. J. G. Reed (RGS High Wycombe and Hughes Hall); P. G. Callow (Oakham and Fitzwilliam); M. B. Duffie (St Dunstons CS, Bristol and Queens); D. J. Bickis (Newer Hill HS, Pinner and Hughes Hall); D. P. A. Dix (Shrewsbury and Hughes Hall); R. H. L. Jones (St Dunstons and Downing); E. W. Peters (Brentwood and Hughes Hall, captain).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: M. T. Joy (Maiden Reading and St Cross); A. E. Llewellyn (Alfred Sutton Reading and St Cross); D. S. Currie (RGS High Wycombe and Templeton); N. R. Slater (Old Henry VII, Coventry and Christ Church); D. P. O'Mahony (Christians Brothers, Cork and Kildare); D. G. Spence (St Andrew's College, South Africa and Kildare); N. G. Malone (Methodist College, Belfast and Kildare); S. F. du Toit (Paul Roos Gymnasium, South Africa); C. R. Church (St Anne's, J. B. B. Denial (Wanganui College, New Zealand and St Catharine's, St Anne's); J. B. B. Denial (Wanganui College, New Zealand and St Catharine's, St Anne's); C. C. Lion-Claude (Pretoria Boys, South Africa and Kildare); B. G. O'Mahony (Presbyterian Brothers, Cork and Kildare).  
Referee: E. F. Morrison (Bristol).



No way out: Spence, the Oxford wing, is trapped by Burns, left, Read and Peters, the Cambridge captain, yesterday

## Rangers look to regain European momentum

FROM STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN DÜSSELDORF

RANGERS, who almost lost sight of the European Cup final a fortnight ago, will tonight attempt to bring it sharply back into focus. In an intriguing tie tucked away in the German countryside near here, they can virtually eliminate CSKA Moscow from contention in group A of the Champions League.

While Rangers were being systematically dissected by Marseille for much of a 2-2 draw at Ibrox, the Russians lost by a lone goal in Bruges. Another defeat would leave them with scarcely a hope of winning the group, and so qualifying for the final.

They are already at a disadvantage so huge that many would regard it as unfair. Because of the harsh wintry conditions in their own country, they have been idle for three weeks and now have to stage their first home game in the tournament on neutral territory, 1,000 miles away.

Instead of being encouraged by row upon row of Muscovites, they will scarcely be able to hear any support. A hardy group of some 500 travellers is expected to assemble inside the intimate ground belonging to Bochum, though they should be substantially outnumbered by the Scots.

As well as being denied home comforts, the Russians have lost their regular goalkeeper, Kharin rejected an offer of £7,000, a lavish purse by any standards, to represent his club against the Scottish champions. He preferred instead to join Chelsea.

The fee, reported to be £200,000, is less than the prize for a point in the Champions League. Rangers collected about £20,000 more for their improbable draw against Marseille, though the euphoria provoked by a stirring recovery from a 2-0 deficit has since been replaced by an earthy realism.

Hateley, whose belated equaliser spared Rangers a demoralising start, conceded yesterday that "we didn't do anything to warrant a place in the later stages of the competition". He added: "We showed grit and determination, but our football was nothing like it was in the earlier ties. We were apprehensive about our first game in the league, we had a few players out and others lacked experience."

Yet they must again gamble on resources limited by the rule governing foreigners. Four of their seven overseas squad members must be omitted and Walter Smith, the manager, did not relish informing Gordon that he would be one of them. "It is very hard to say you are not playing because he's just had a good game," he said.

Seven, though apparently less than fully fit, was one of

the three chosen foreigners two weeks ago and, once he had aggravated his injury, he was withdrawn. Ready to resume, he could be joined by another Englishman, Stevens, who has endured six months of frustration.

At the end of last season, he was close to gaining a place in the European championship squad when he damaged an ankle in the final practice game in Finland. Having completed his recuperation from the subsequent operation, he recently hurt a knee.

Although he has been unable to train for a week and remains doubtful, he is the only recognised right back in the party. Should he be unavailable, McCall will probably fill the role and Mikhailichenko, whose contribution against Marseille was negligible, is likely to be brought into midfield.

Since their defence is vulnerable without the injured Gough, Rangers are once more relying on their attack, led by the prolific McCoist, to ease the mental strain. "It is important for us to win," Smith said, "because we could then put Europe on ice for a couple of months."

A burst pipe which flooded Ibrox last weekend gave Rangers an unforeseen rest. CSKA, who knocked out Barcelona to reach the Champions League, have been preparing in the Spanish sunshine. There they mixed pleasure with business: three members of the squad which featured eight internationals were sold to Espanol.

PICTURES: Group A: CSKA Moscow v Rangers (at Bochum); Marseille v Bruges; Group B: FC Gelsenkirchen v Porto; PSV Eindhoven v AC Milan.

## Taylor accepts chance to venture indoors

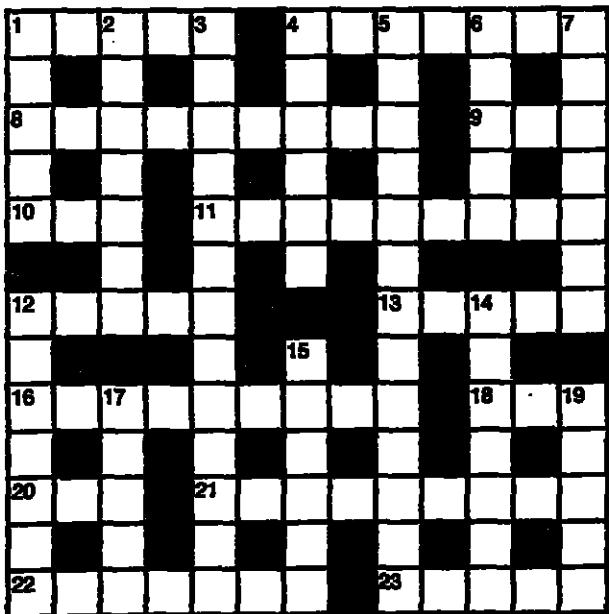
ENGLAND are to join the United States, Brazil and Germany for a football tournament in the United States next June which will involve Graham Taylor's team playing indoors at the Pontiac Silverdome, outside Detroit (Louise Taylor writes).

Intended as a curtain raiser to the 1994 World Cup, the US Cup '93 kicks off on June 6 with the United States playing Brazil at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Connecticut, and the six-game event concludes when England face Germany at the Pontiac Silverdome. It will be the first time an England side has played an international indoors.

Taylor last night welcomed the idea. "I am thoroughly looking forward to the challenge that this tournament represents," he said. "For the players and managers concerned, it provides ideal preparation for the 1994 World Cup finals. In terms of learning to adapt to playing conditions, it is especially important to have a chance to play at an indoor stadium."

The England manager — who is confident of qualifying for the World Cup finals — hopes to have a full complement of players available for the tournament and that nobody will underestimate its importance.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2966



## ACROSS

- 1 Throttle (5)
- 4 Moisture clouds (7)
- 8 Legendary stories (9)
- 9 Auto (3)
- 10 Appropriate (3)
- 11 Heedlessly rash (9)
- 12 Little person (5)
- 13 Furious (5)
- 16 Irresistible (9)
- 18 Umpire (3)
- 20 Illuminated (3)
- 21 Infinitum (9)
- 22 Rejoinder (7)
- 23 Faithful (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Lively Brazil dance (5)
- 2 Door knocking noise (7)
- 3 Behave strangely (2,3,3,5)
- 4 Haiti cult (6)
- 5 In the mind (13)
- 6 Open sore (5)
- 7 Sprinkled (7)
- 12 Little fish (7)
- 14 Oxbridge university (7)
- 15 Centre (6)
- 17 Launch (3,2)
- 19 Ultimate (5)

## SOLUTIONS TO NO 2965

ACROSS: 1 Scotch 5 Snaggy up 12 Rump 15 Base 17 Agnate 19 Viet Minh 21 Cane 22 Hybrid 23 Debate  
DOWN: 2 Cafeteria 3 Ray 4 Hornpipe 5 Suds 6 Accordion 7 Pal 11 Presenter 13 Militants 14 Unwashed 18 Wild 20 Ivy 21 Cub

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Gufeld — Conquest, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/7. In his attempts to try and win with his two extra pawns, the young international master Stuart Conquest has allowed his king to be forced into a tight corner. How can white capitalise on this? British grandmasters Nunn and Speedman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings Solution on page 36.

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By PHILIP HOWARD

## CONVIVATOR

- a. A contemporary King's Scholar at Eton
  - b. A New Forest game warden
  - c. A companion in feasting
- CASSIDEIOUS  
a. In vain and hideous  
b. Like cinnamon  
Answers on page 36

## c. Helmet-shaped

WHOPSTRAW  
a. A country bumpkin  
b. A pitchfork  
c. The ridge of a thash

## VELOCIMAN

- a. A manual tricycle  
b. A short-burst sprinter  
c. A pedestrian courier

## British Olympic build-up receives £24m

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITAIN'S national governing bodies for the summer Olympic sports will have about £24 million to spend in the build-up to the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

The Sports Council announced the grant yesterday and said it was contributing a further £6 million in support services for the governing bodies, which includes sports medicine, sports science and the National Coaching Foundation. The total of about £30 million compares with £27 million allocated for the four years up to Barcelona.

A spokeswoman for the British Olympic Association said of the ten per cent increase: "We are delighted. Lack of finance is a constant

problem for the governing bodies and many elite competitors and we are constantly looking at ways to get them more money."

"In the context of the overall Sports Council budget, an increase of £3 million is understandable. Everyone is waiting until the money comes through from the national lottery for a bigger rise." Derek Casey, director of national services for the Sports Council, stressed that the figure of £30 million was a minimum because the grant given to the council by the government was reviewed year by year.

The national governing bodies must certainly hope that their grants will be larger because the ten per cent increase over four years looks

like being below the level of inflation.

They would also point out that about £6 million in annual direct grants is inadequate given the council's budget of £50.6 million for the next financial year.

However, the council has other financial responsibilities, including supporting the five national sports centres, regional facilities, grass roots sport and drugs testing.

The council is to ask the International Weightlifting Federation for confirmation of reports that it wanted suspensions imposed on Andrew Saxton and Andrew Davies, the British competitors sent home from the Barcelona Olympic Games for taking clenbuterol, the controversial drug.

Five weeks ago, the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association decided to take no further action against the competitors — a move that surprised the council, which is responsible for drugs testing in Britain.

John Redwood, the inner-cities minister, yesterday announced a £35.5 million grant for the Victoria Olympic Arena in Manchester. It is part of the £55 million package pledged by the government to support Manchester's bid for the 2000 Olympic Games.

Redwood said the grant would generate nearly £200 million of private sector investment. "The government's backing for this project signals to the world the seriousness of Manchester's Olympic bid," he said.

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